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(54) COMMUNIQUE SYSTEM FOR COMBINED CELLULAR AND WIRELINE COMMUNICATION NETWORKS

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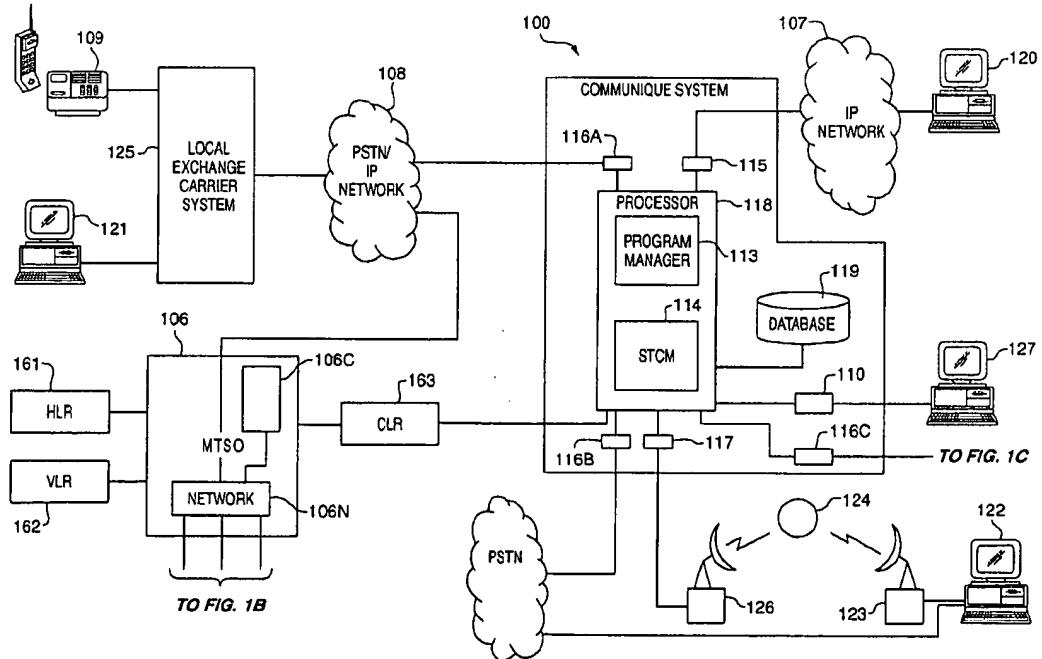
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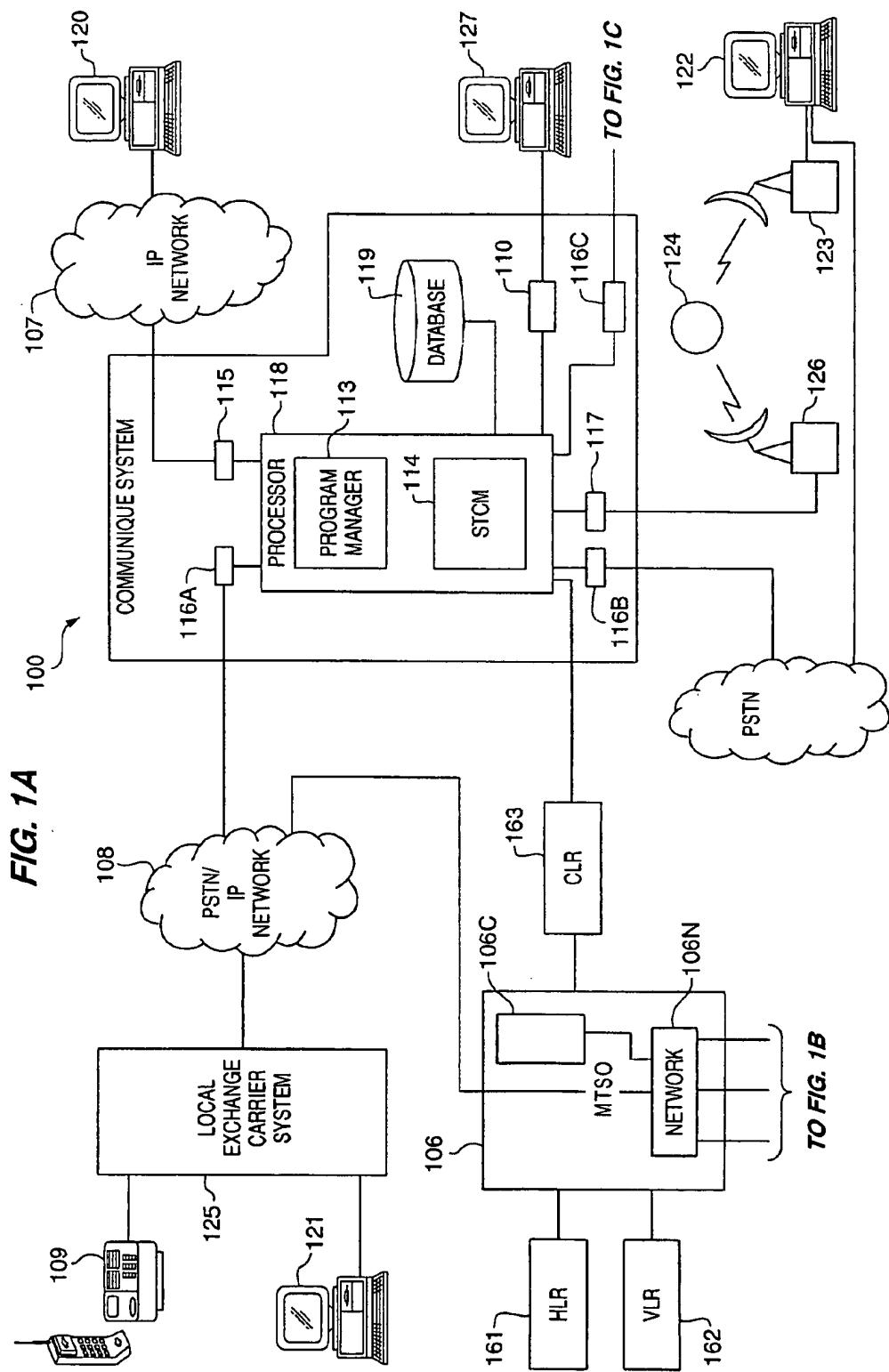
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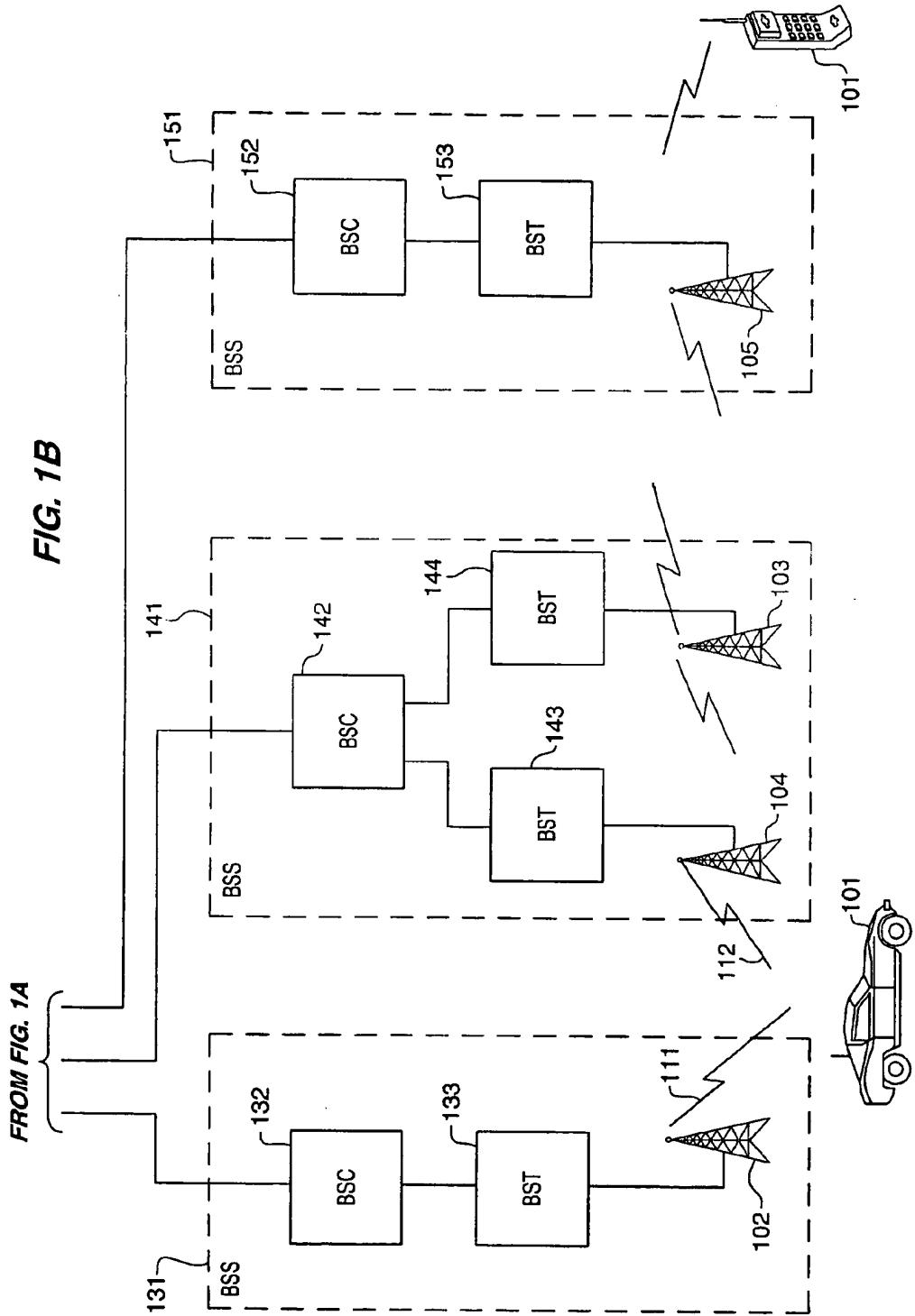
ABSTRACT

The communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks operates with existing cellular and

wireline communication networks to provide communiqué communication services to subscribers. The Communiqué can be unidirectional (broadcast) or bidirectional (interactive) in nature and the extent of the Communiqué can be network-wide broadcast or narrowcast, where cells and/or cell sectors are grouped to cover a predetermined geographic area or demographic population or subscriber interest group to transmit information to subscribers who populate the target audience for the narrowcast transmissions. The grouping of cells to form the communiqué coverage area for the narrowcast transmissions can be hierarchical in nature and/or be composed of combinations of in-building wireless coverage areas, standard terrestrial cells, non-terrestrial cells, wireline-based cells, orchestrated in a hierarchical manner. The content of these transmissions can be multi-media in nature and comprising a combination of various forms of media: audio, video, graphics, text, data and the like. The subscriber terminal devices used to communicate with the communiqué system for cellular communication networks are typically full function communication devices that include: WAP enabled cellular telephones, personal digital assistants, Palm Pilots, personal computers, and the like or special communiqué only communication devices that are specific to communiqué reception; or MP3 audio players (essentially a radio receiver or communiqué radio); or an MPEG4 video receiver (communiqué TV); or other such specialized communication device.







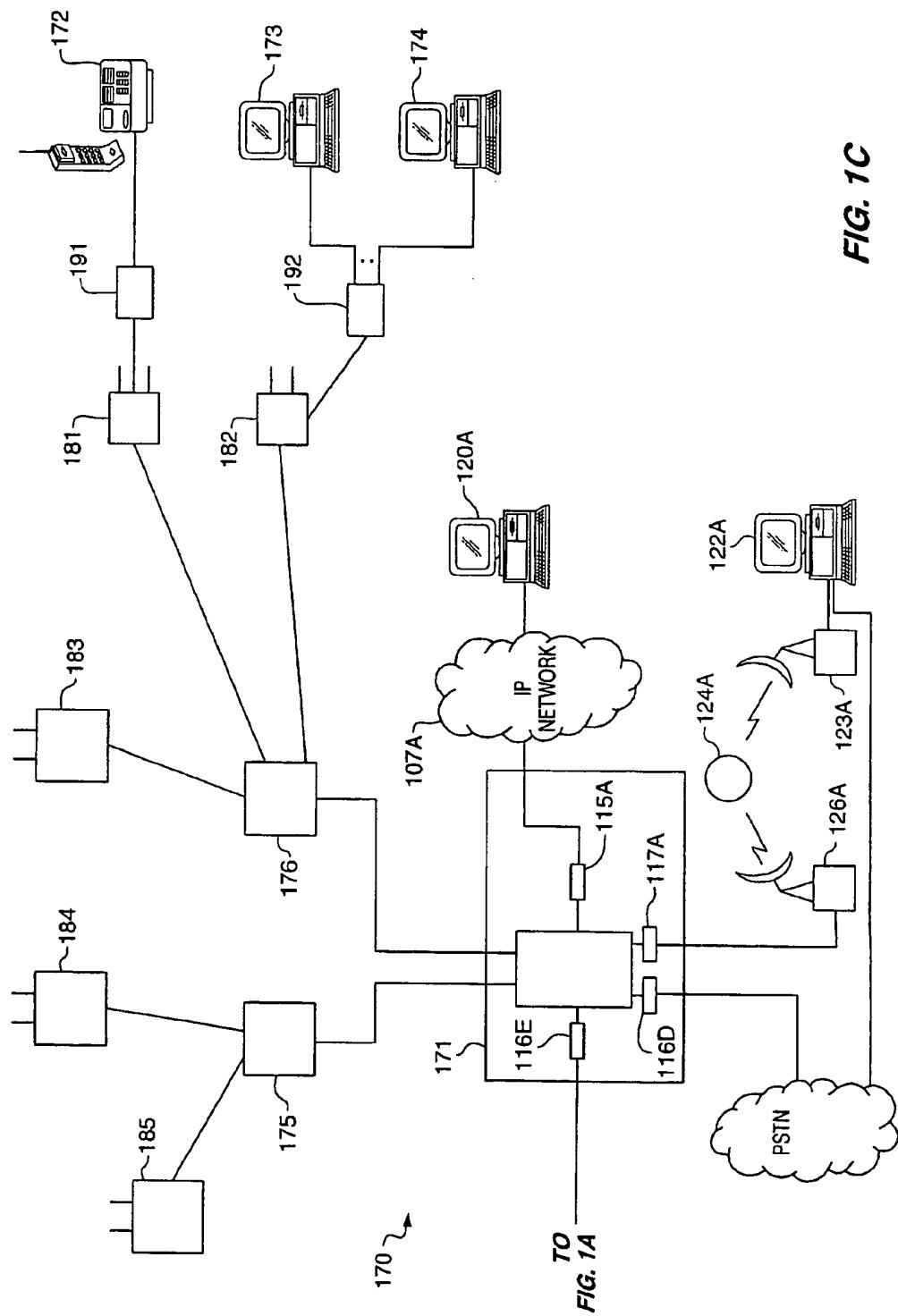
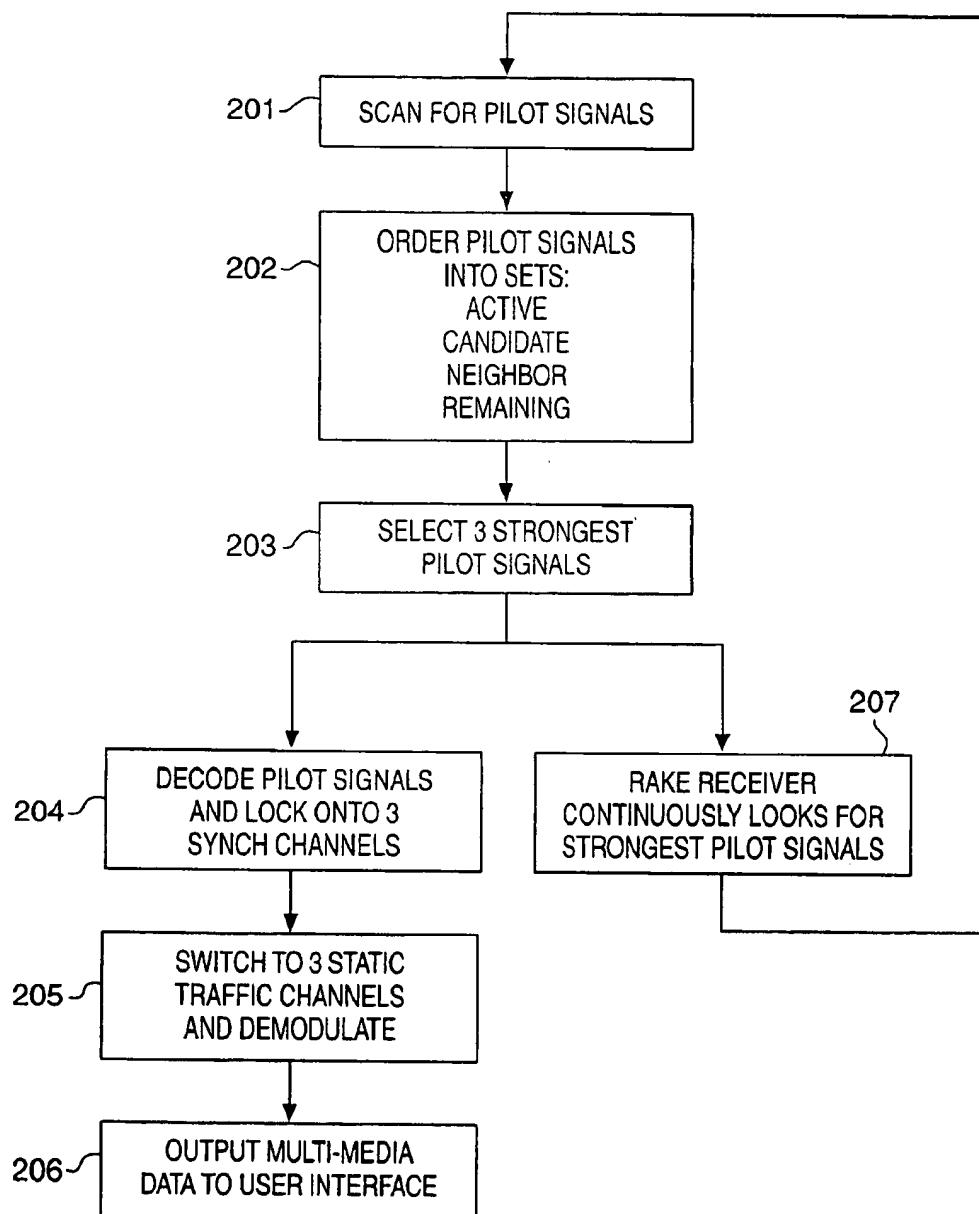


FIG. 2



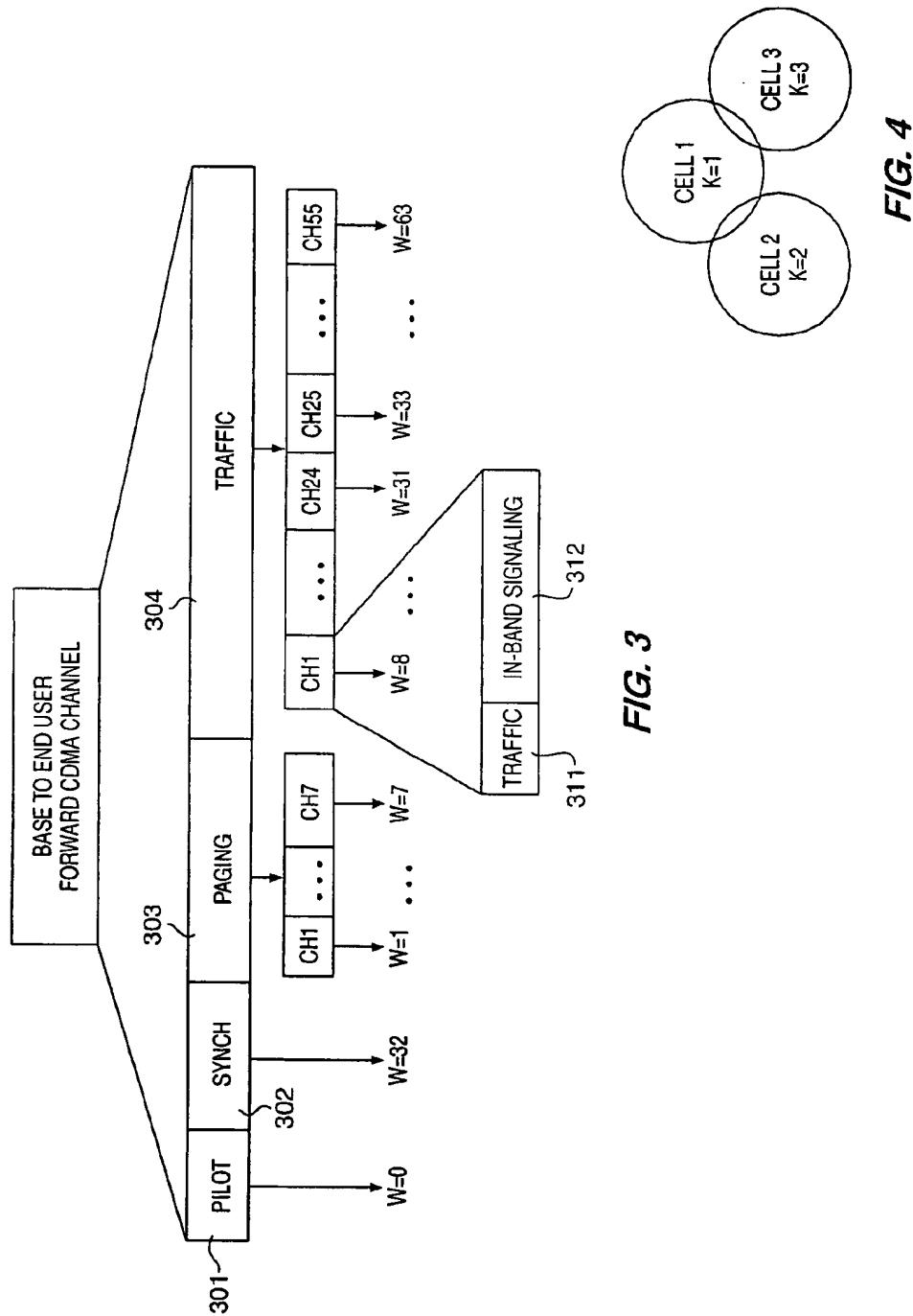


FIG. 3

FIG. 4

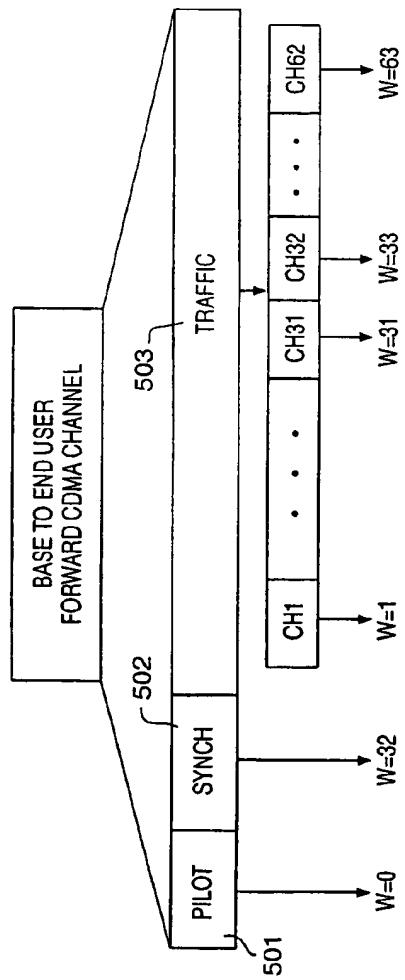


FIG. 5

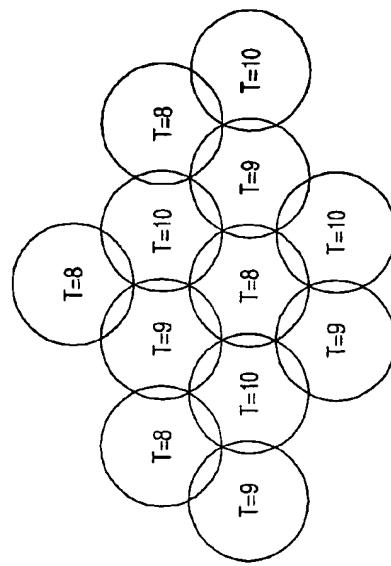
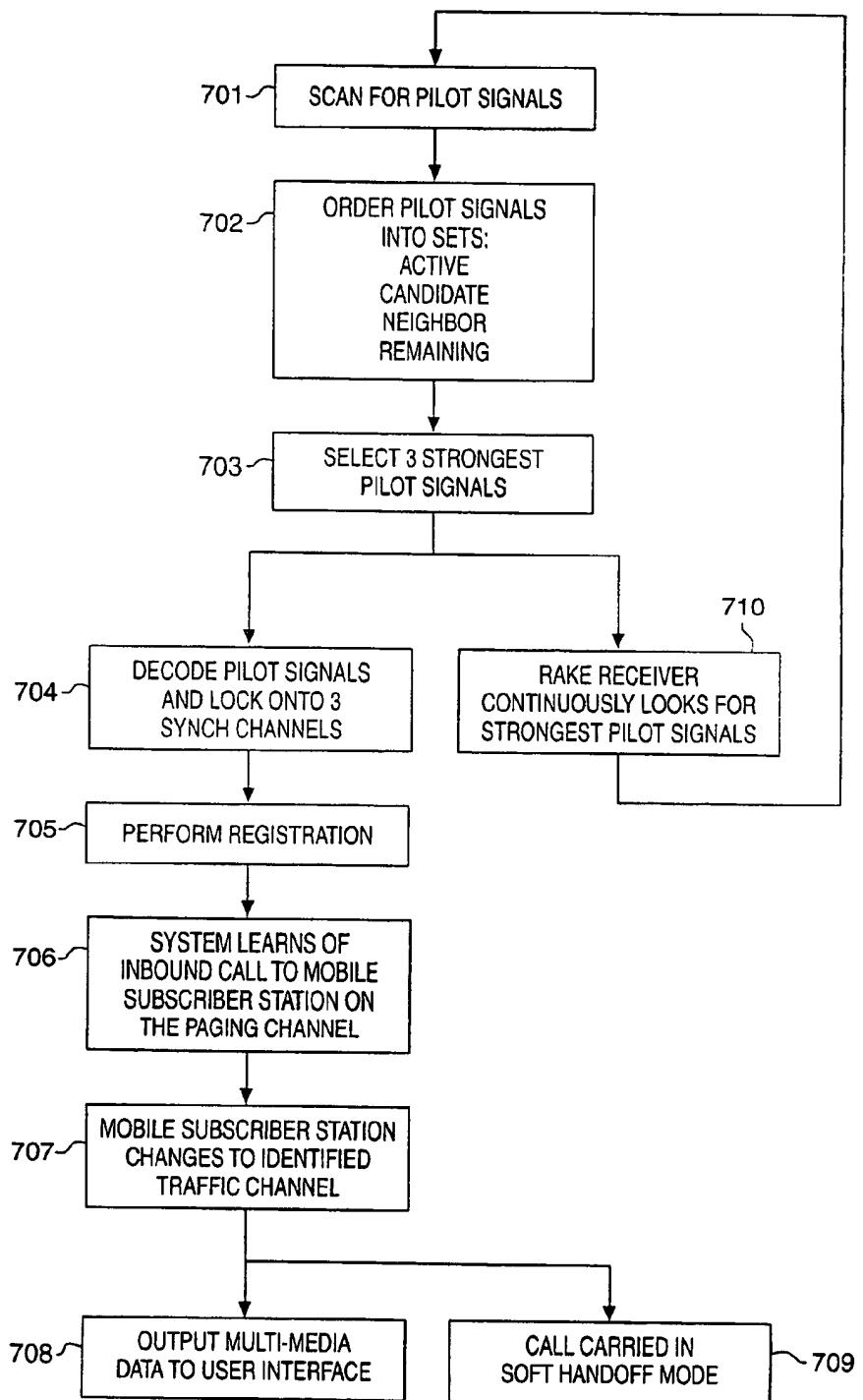


FIG. 6

FIG. 7



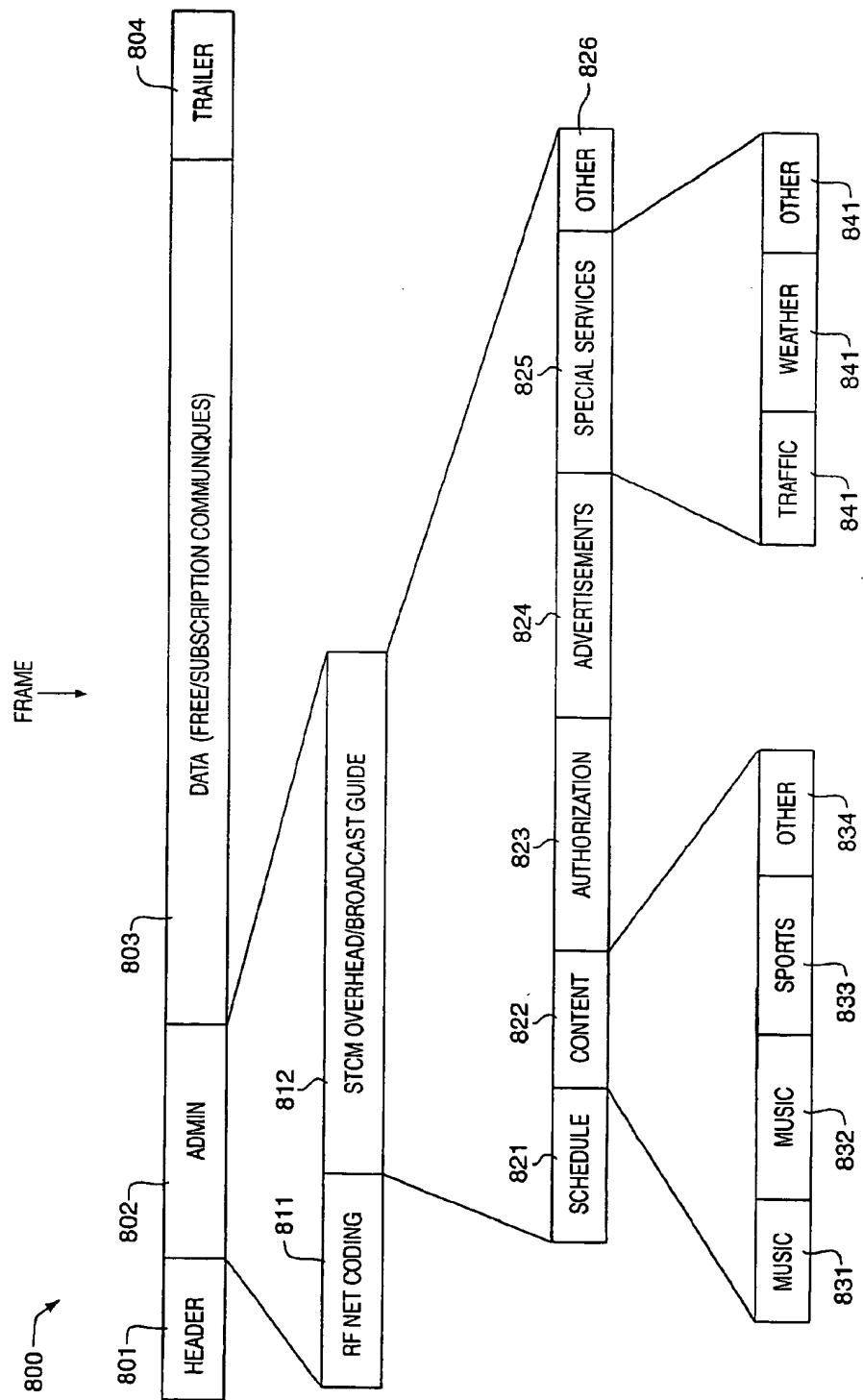
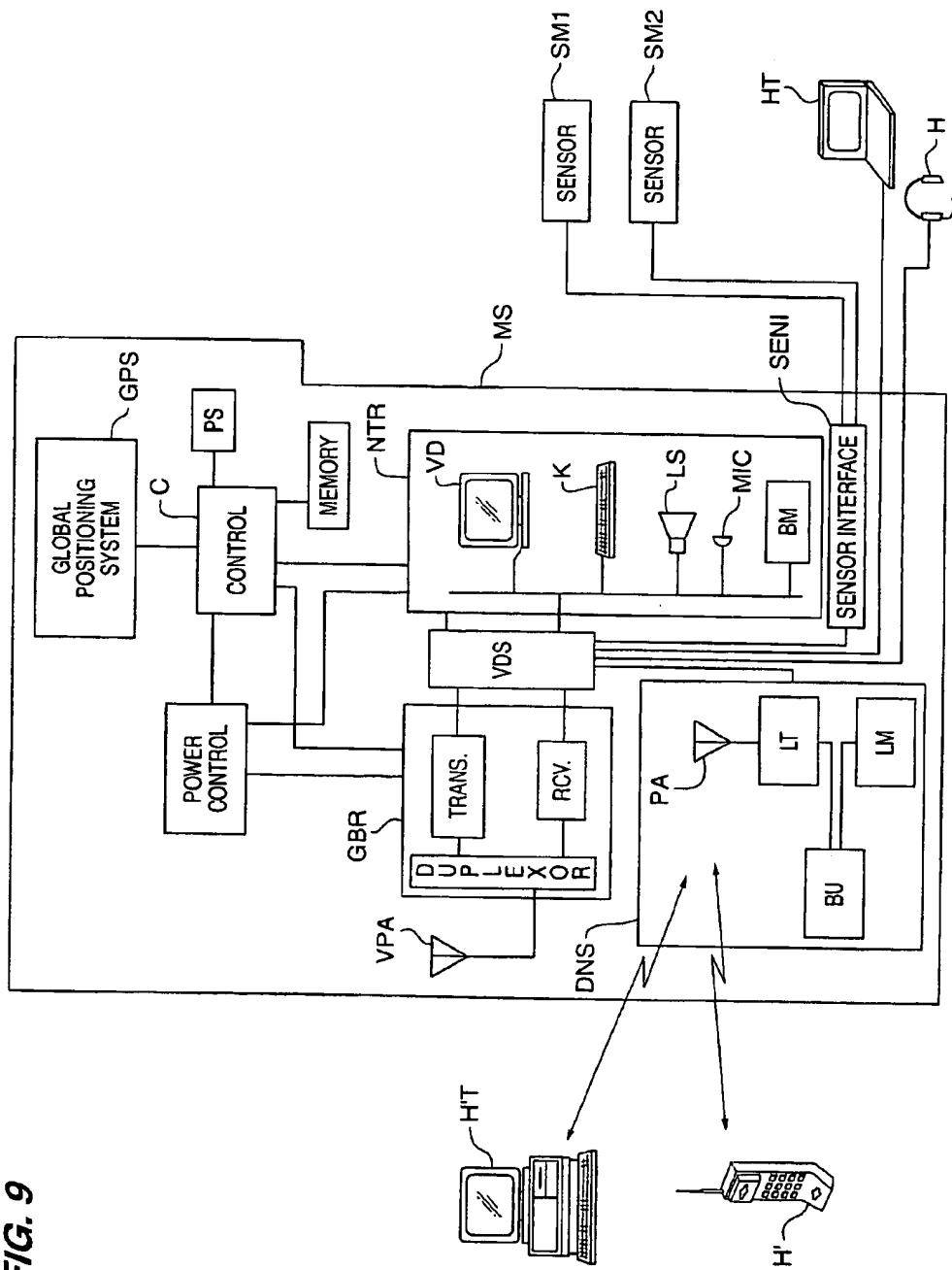


FIG. 8

FIG. 9



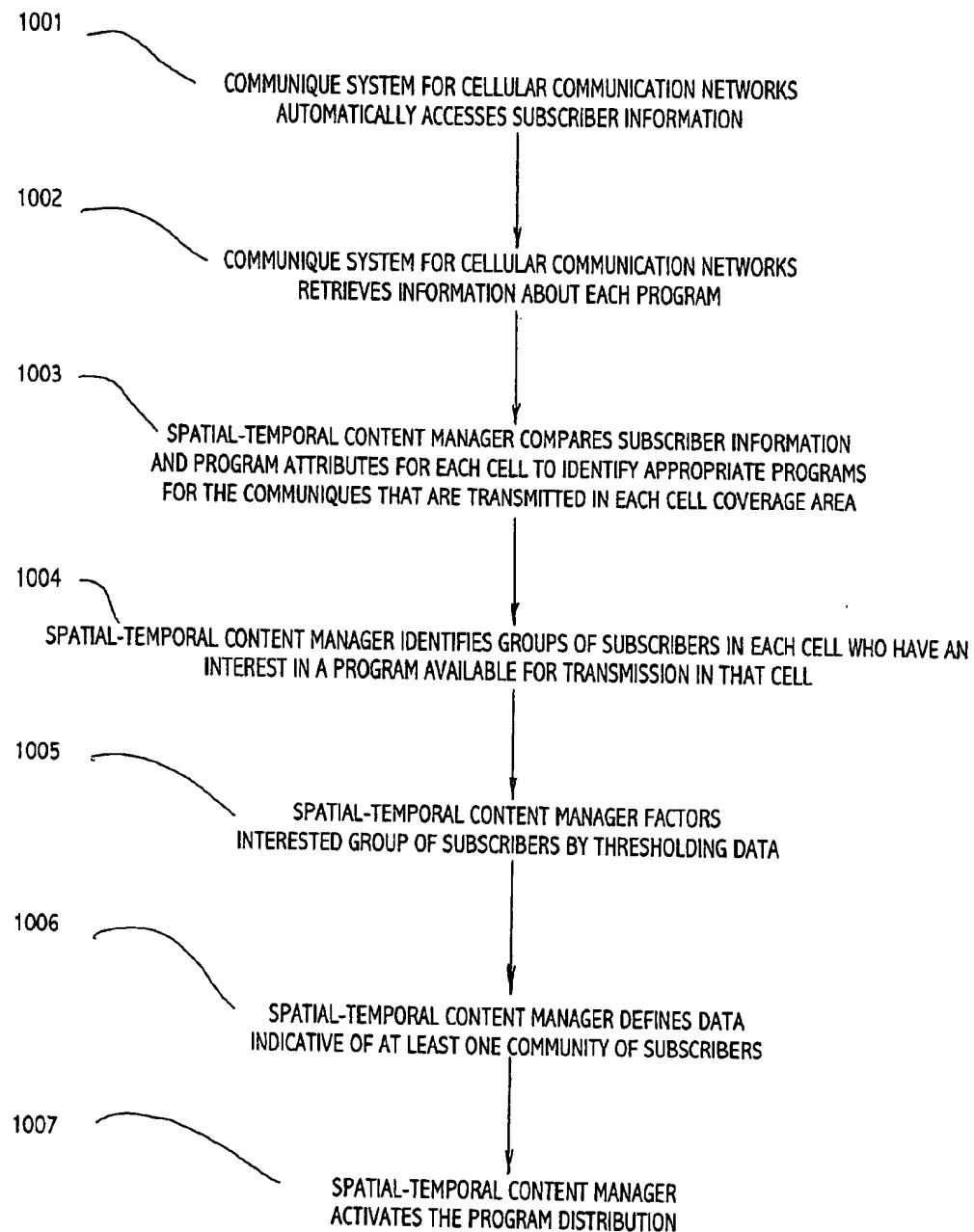


FIGURE 10

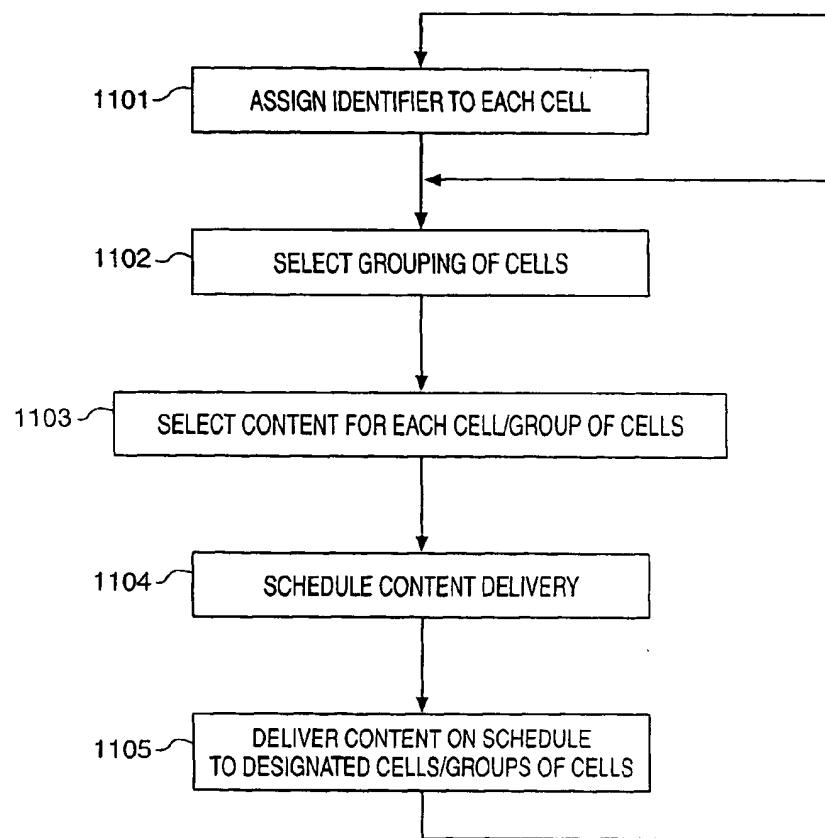


FIG. 11

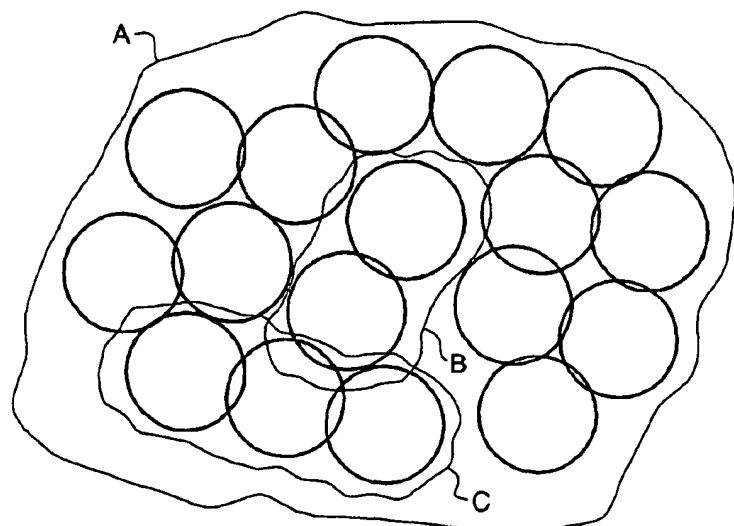


FIG. 12

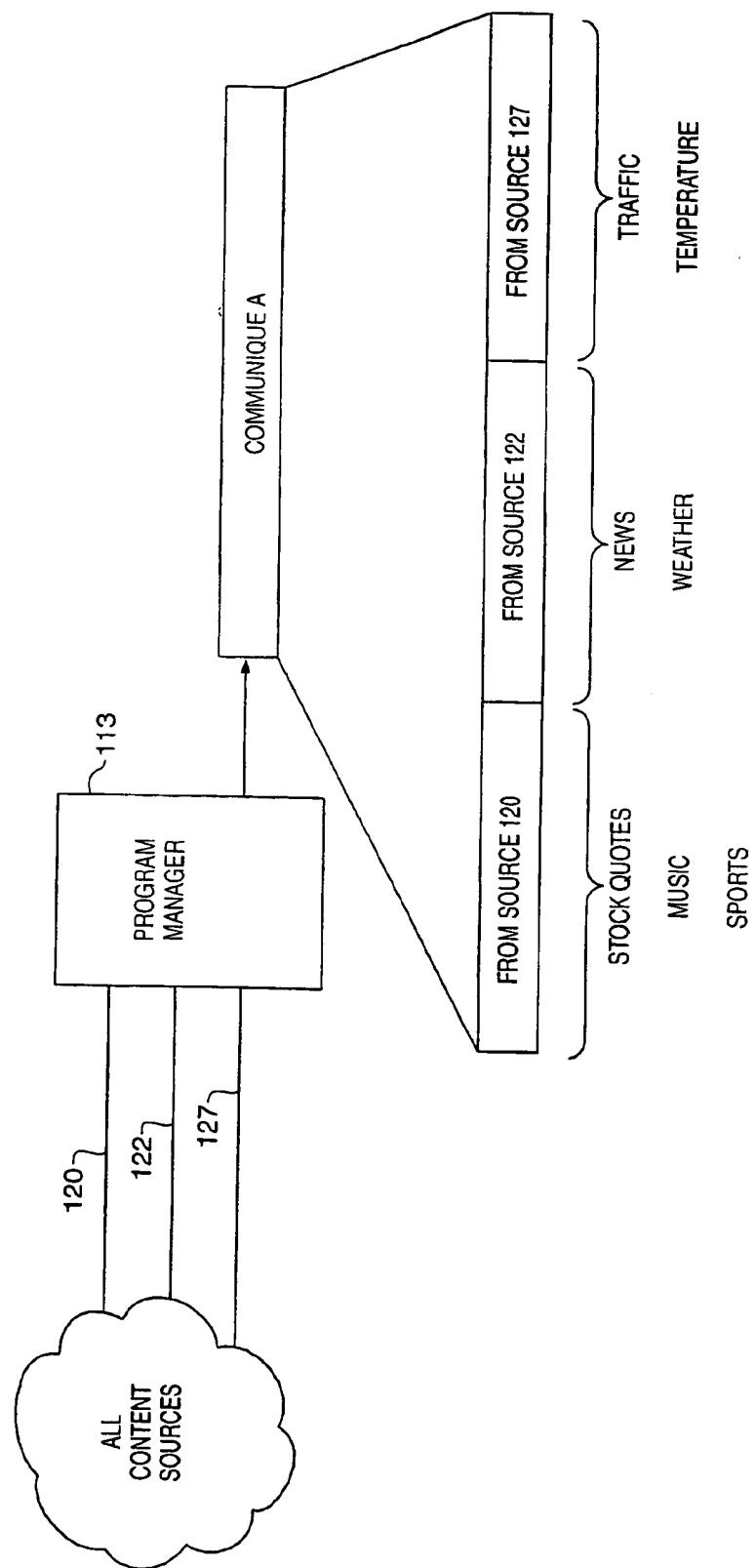
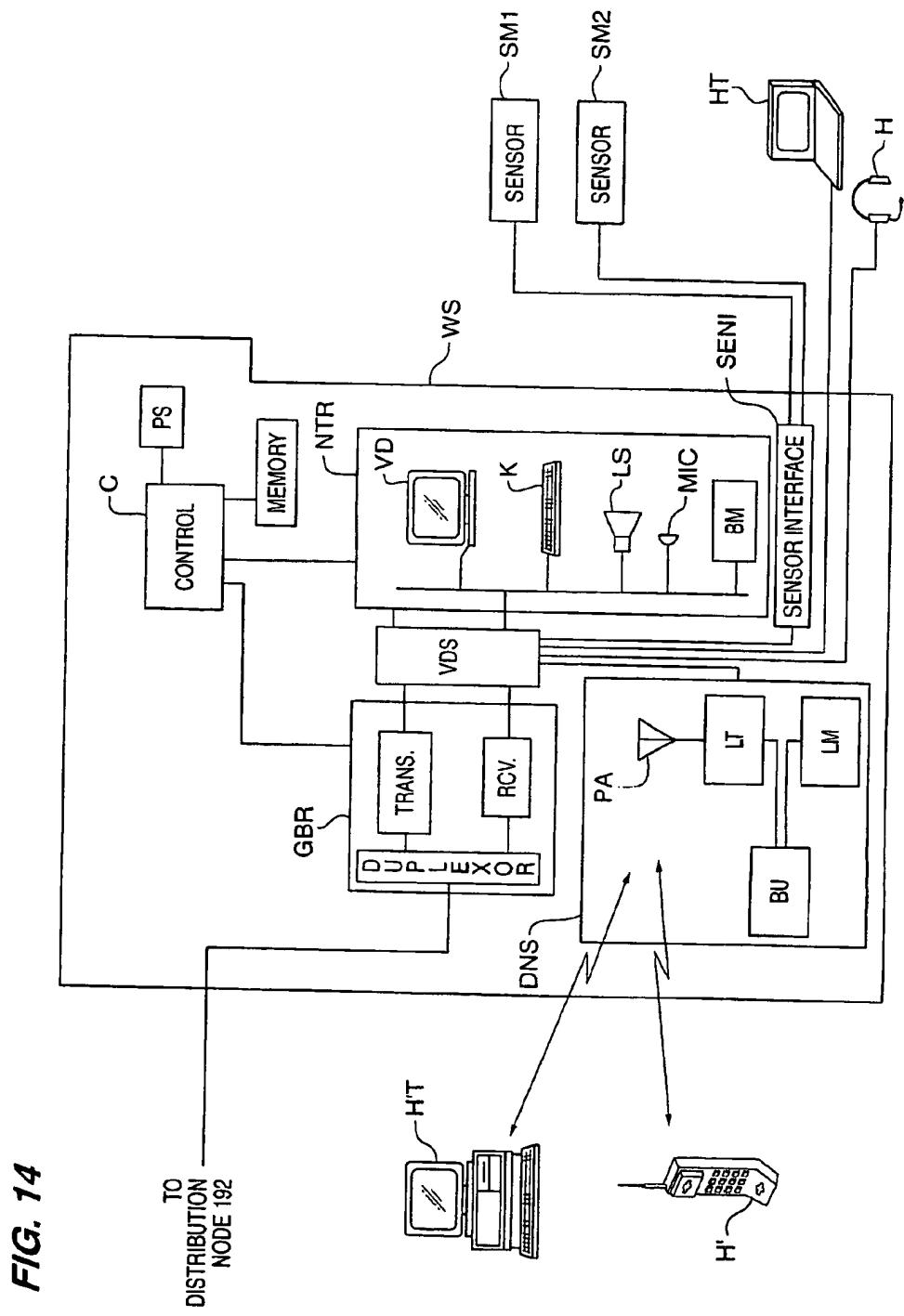


FIG. 13



**COMMUNIQUE SYSTEM FOR COMBINED
CELLULAR AND WIRELINE COMMUNICATION
NETWORKS**

**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED
APPLICATIONS**

[0001] This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No: 09/638,744, titled "Communiqué System for Cellular Communication Networks" and filed on Aug. 14, 2000.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] This invention relates to a communiqué system that makes use of the bandwidth capacity in existing point-to-point cellular communication networks and wireline communication systems to provide subscribers with access to a plurality of broadcast and narrowcast based services.

Problem

[0003] It is a problem in cellular communication networks that the network topology is exclusively point to point in nature. This paradigm represents the historical view of cellular communications as a wireless equivalent of traditional wire-line telephone communication networks, which serve to interconnect a calling party with a called party. An additional problem in cellular communication networks is that the need to concurrently serve many voice subscribers with the limited bandwidth available in cellular communication networks has prevented the provision of wide bandwidth communication services, such as data, to these subscribers.

[0004] The third generation (3 G) wireless communication systems, as specified by the ITU/IMT-2000 requirements for cellular communications, represent a step toward solving the above-noted problems. The third generation wireless communication systems support the provision of advanced packet data services. In 3 G/IMT-2000 systems, dynamic Internet Protocol address assignment is required in addition to static Internet Protocol (IP) address assignment. With static IP address assignment, the wireless subscriber station's static IP address is fixed and assigned by the home wireless network. When the wireless subscriber station is away from its home wireless network (roaming), a special data communications link (Wireless IP tunnel) needs to be established between the visited wireless network and the home wireless network. In this case, IP packets destined to the wireless subscriber station's IP address of the home wireless network are routed to the home wireless network according to standard IP routing. A Wireless IP tunnel is used in the home wireless network to redirect the IP packets that are destined to the wireless subscriber station's static IP address to the visited wireless network where the roaming wireless subscriber station is located and being served. When a wireless subscriber station moves from one wireless network coverage area to another, Wireless IP mobility binding updates are performed between the wireless subscriber station and its Home Agent (HA) in the home wireless network. Since both the wireless station's IP address and its Home Agent IP address are static or fixed, a shared secret between the wireless subscriber station and the Home Agent can be preprogrammed into the wireless station and its Home Agent so that the Home Agent can authenticate

Wireless IP registrations requested by the wireless subscriber station and perform mobility binding updates in a secure manner.

[0005] However, even with advances in bandwidth utilization and the provision of packet data services, the cellular communication networks still operate on a point to point paradigm, with the networks being unable to concurrently communicate data to a plurality of subscribers, which is the fundamental concept of broadcast communications, especially in the case of a dynamically changing audience for the broadcasts.

Solution

[0006] The above described problems are solved and a technical advance achieved by the communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks that operates with existing cellular and wireline communication networks to provide communiqué communication services to subscribers. The Communiqué can be unidirectional (broadcast) or bidirectional (interactive) in nature and the extent of the Communiqué can be network-wide broadcast or narrowcast, where cells and/or cell sectors are grouped to cover a predetermined geographic area or demographic population or subscriber interest group to transmit information to subscribers who populate the target audience for the narrowcast transmissions. The grouping of cells to form the communiqué coverage area for the narrowcast transmissions can be composed of combinations of in-building wireless coverage areas, standard terrestrial and/or nonterrestrial cells, wireline-based cells, orchestrated in a hierarchical manner.

[0007] The content of these communiqué transmissions can be multi-media in nature and comprise a combination of various forms of media: audio, video, graphics, text, data and the like. The subscriber terminal devices used to communicate with the communiqué system for cellular communication networks are typically full function communication devices that include: WAP enabled cellular telephones, personal digital assistants, Palm Pilots, personal computers, and the like or special communiqué only communication devices that are specific to communiqué reception; or MP3 audio players (essentially a radio receiver or communiqué radio); or an MPEG4 video receiver (communiqué TV); or other such specialized communication device. The subscriber terminal devices used in the communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks can be mobile wireless communication devices in the traditional mobile subscriber paradigm, or the fixed wireless communication devices in the more recent wireless product offerings, or wireline-based communication devices. Furthermore, the communiqué communication services can be free services, subscription based services, or toll based services, while the data propagation can be based on push, pull and combinations of push/pull information distribution modes.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

[0008] FIGS. 1A-1C illustrate in block diagram form the overall architecture of typical cellular and wireline communication networks that are equipped with the present communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks;

[0009] FIG. 2 illustrates in flow diagram form the operation of a typical cellular communication system in implementing an idle handoff mode of operation;

[0010] FIG. 3 illustrates in block diagram form a typical configuration of the base to end user forward CDMA channel used in cellular communication networks;

[0011] FIG. 4 illustrates in block diagram form a typical assignment of cells in a cellular communication network for a unidirectional transmission without subscriber registration mode of operation of the present communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks;

[0012] FIG. 5 illustrates in block diagram form a typical configuration of the base to end user forward CDMA channel used in cellular communication networks;

[0013] FIG. 6 illustrates in block diagram form a typical assignment of cells in a cellular communication network as an example of the operation of the present communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks;

[0014] FIG. 7 illustrates in block diagram form a typical assignment of cells in a cellular communication network for a non-interactive bidirectional transmission with subscriber registration mode of operation of the present communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks;

[0015] FIG. 8 illustrates in block diagram form a typical signaling protocol for a Traffic channel for use in the present communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks;

[0016] FIG. 9 illustrates in block diagram form the overall architecture of a communiqué wireless subscriber device;

[0017] FIG. 10 illustrates in flow diagram form one mode of using subscriber information as active feedback in the operation of the present communiqué system for cellular communication networks;

[0018] FIG. 11 illustrates in flow diagram form the operation of the Spatial-Temporal Content Manager;

[0019] FIG. 12 illustrates a typical program coverage pattern;

[0020] FIG. 13 illustrates a typical program stream for a plurality of communication channels; and

[0021] FIG. 14 illustrates in block diagram form the overall architecture of a communiqué wired subscriber device.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0022] Existing cellular communication networks are designed with a network topology that is exclusively point to point in nature. This paradigm represents the historical view of cellular communications as a wireless equivalent of traditional wire-line telephone communication networks, which serve to interconnect a calling party with a called party. The need to concurrently serve many voice subscribers with the limited bandwidth available in cellular communication networks has also prevented the provision of wide bandwidth communication services to these subscribers. These existing systems are largely static in their operation, with each cell providing point to point communications to a population of subscribers who reside in or roam into the predefined service area of the cell. There is an absence of a capability to provide a communication service to a sub-

scriber population that comprises a dynamically changing coverage area that spans multiple cells. The dynamic convergence of a plurality of subscribers to constitute a target audience for Communiqués is a paradigm that is not addressed by existing cellular communication systems, nor is there any functionality suggested in existing cellular communication systems to deal with providing information relevant to this target audience in a real time manner.

[0023] Cellular Communication Network Philosophy

[0024] Cellular communication networks as shown in block diagram form in FIGS. 1A & 1B, provide the service of connecting wireless telecommunication customers, each having a wireless subscriber device, to both land-based customers who are served by the common Carrier Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) 108 as well as other wireless telecommunication customers. In such a network, all incoming and outgoing calls are routed through Mobile Telephone Switching Offices (MTSO) 106, each of which is connected to a plurality of cell sites (also termed Base Station Subsystems 131-151) which communicate with wireless subscriber devices 101, 101' located in the area covered by the cell sites. The wireless subscriber devices 101, 101' are served by the cell sites, each of which is located in one cell area of a larger service region. Each cell site in the service region is connected by a group of communication links to the Mobile Telephone Switching Office 106. Each cell site contains a group of radio transmitters and receivers (Base Station Transceiver 132, 142, 143, 152) with each transmitter-receiver pair being connected to one communication link. Each transmitter-receiver pair operates on a pair of radio frequencies to create a communication channel: one frequency to transmit radio signals to the wireless subscriber device and the other frequency to receive radio signals from the wireless subscriber device.

[0025] The first stage of a cellular communication connection is set up when a transmitter-receiver pair in a cell site 131, operating on a predetermined pair of radio frequencies, is turned on and a wireless subscriber device 101, located in the cell site 131, is tuned to the same pair of radio frequencies to thereby activate a communication channel between the wireless subscriber device 101 and the cell site 131. The second stage of the communication connection is between the communication link connected to this transmitter-receiver pair and the common carrier Public Switched Telephone Network 108. This second stage of the communication connection is set up in the Mobile Telephone Switching Office 106, which is connected to the common carrier Public Switched Telephone Network 108 by incoming and outgoing trunks.

[0026] The Mobile Telephone Switching Office 106 contains a switching network 106N to switch wireless subscriber voice and/or data signals from the communication link to an incoming or outgoing trunk. The Mobile Telephone Switching Office 106 and associated software typically manages the base station controllers 132, 142, 152 and the Base Station Transceiver Transmit/Receive electronics which serve to implement the wireless radio frequency link to the wireless subscriber devices 101. The Mobile Telephone Switching Office 106, in conjunction with the Home Location Register (HLR) 161 and the Visitor Location Register (VLR) 162, manages subscriber registration, sub-

scriber authentication, and the provision of wireless services such as voice mail, call forwarding, roaming validation and so on. The Mobile Telephone Switching Office Controller 106C also controls the actions of the associated base station controllers 132, 142, 152 by generating and interpreting the control messages that are exchanged with the associated base station controllers 132, 142, 152 over data links that interconnect these subsystems. The base station controllers 132, 142, 152 at each cell site 131-151, in response to control messages from the Mobile Telephone Switching Office 106, control the transmitter-receiver pairs at the cell site 131. The control processes at each cell site also control the tuning of the wireless subscriber devices to the selected radio frequencies. In the case of CDMA, the system also selects the PN code word to enhance isolation of the communications with the wireless subscriber devices.

[0027] Each cell in the cellular communication network comprises; a predetermined volume of space radially arranged around the cell site transmitting antenna with the region of space roughly approximating a cylindrical volume having predetermined height. Since all of the wireless subscriber devices are installed in ground-based units (such as motor vehicles or handheld units) in traditional cellular communication systems, the antenna radiation pattern of the cell site is aligned to be proximate to the ground and the polarization of the signals produced by the cell site antenna is vertical in nature. In order to prevent the radio signals in one cell site from interfering with radio signals in an adjacent cell site, the transmitter frequencies for adjacent cell sites are selected to be different so that there is sufficient frequency separation between adjacent transmitter frequencies to avoid overlapping transmissions among adjacent cell sites. In order to reuse the same frequencies, the cellular telecommunication industry has developed a small but finite number of transmitter frequencies and a cell site allocation pattern that ensures that two adjacent cell sites do not operate on the same frequency. When a ground-based wireless subscriber device initiates a call connection, control signals from the local cell site transmitter cause the frequency agile transponder in the ground-based wireless subscriber device to operate at the frequency of operation designated for that particular cell site. As the ground-based wireless subscriber device moves from one cell site to another, the call connection is handed off to the successive cell sites and the frequency agile transponder in the ground-based wireless subscriber device adjusts its frequency of operation to correspond to the frequency of operation of the transmitter located in the cell site in which the ground-based wireless subscriber device is presently operational.

[0028] There are numerous technologies that can be used to implement the cellular communication network and these include both digital and analog paradigms, with the digital apparatus representing the more recent of the two technologies. Furthermore, the frequency spectrum is allocated for different cellular communication systems, with the personal communication system (PCS) systems being located in the 1.9 GHz region of the spectrum while traditional cellular systems are located in the 800 MHz region of the spectrum. The access methods used in cellular communication systems include Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) that uses orthogonal codes to implement communication channels, Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) which uses time division multiplexing of a frequency to implement communication channels and Frequency Division Multiple Access

(FDMA) which uses separate frequencies to implement communication channels, as well as combinations of these technologies. These concepts are well known in the field of cellular communications and various ones of these can be used to implement the ubiquitous wireless subscriber device of the present invention. These technologies are not limitations to the system, which is described herein, since a novel system concept is disclosed, not a specific technologically limited implementation of an existing system concept.

[0029] The traditional CDMA cellular network architecture is designed to carry a wireless call between a wireless subscriber device and a base station, by simultaneously using multiple base stations or antennas to mitigate the effects of signal fading of various types, including, but not limited to: Raleigh, rician and log-normal. If one cell or one antenna in the CDMA cellular network has a poor signal for a given time frame, another cell or antenna in the CDMA cellular network which had an acceptable signal carries the call. This call management process is called soft or softer hand-off, depending on whether the call is carried between two cells or two antennas; at a given cell, respectively.

[0030] Cellular Communication Network Architecture

[0031] FIGS. 1A-1C are the block diagram of the architecture of the present communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks 100 and one example of existing commercial cellular and wireline communication networks in which it is implemented. In the description of the present communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks, the major entities of the cellular communication network providing communiqué services to the wireless subscriber device 101 are the Base Station Subsystems 131-151 that are associated with the Mobile Telephone Switching Office 106. In a typical cellular communications network, there are numerous Mobile Telephone Switching Offices 106, but for the sake of simplicity only a single Mobile Telephone Switching Office is shown.

[0032] The typical implementation of an existing Mobile Telephone Switching Office 106 comprises a Mobile Telephone Switching Office Controller 106C which executes call processing associated with the Mobile Telephone Switching Office 106. A switching network 106N provides the telephone connectivity between Base Station Subsystems 131-151. Base Station Subsystems 131-151 communicate with wireless subscriber device 101 using Radio Frequency (RF) channels 111 and 112, respectively. RF channels 111 and 112 convey both command messages as well as digital data, which may represent voice signals being articulated at the wireless subscriber device 101 and the far-end party. With a CDMA system, the wireless subscriber device 101 communicates with at least One Base Station Subsystem 131. In FIG. 1, the wireless subscriber device 101 is simultaneously communicating with two Base Station Subsystems 131, 141, thus constituting a soft handoff. However, a soft handoff is not limited to a maximum of two base stations. Standard EIA/TIA IS-95-B supports a soft handoff with as many as six base stations. When in a soft handoff, the base stations serving a given call must act in concert so that commands issued over RF channels 111 and 112 are consistent with each other. In order to accomplish this consistency, one of the serving Base Station Subsystems may operate as the primary Base Station Subsystem with respect to the other

serving Base Station Subsystems. Of course, a wireless subscriber device 101 may communicate with only a single Base Station Subsystem if determined as sufficient by the cellular communication network.

[0033] Cellular communication networks provide a plurality of concurrently active communications in the same service area, with the number of concurrently active communication connections exceeding the number of available radio channels. This is accomplished by reusing the channels via the provision of multiple Base Station Subsystems 131-151 in the service area that is served by a single Mobile Telephone Switching Office 106. The overall service area of a Mobile Telephone Switching Office 106 is divided into a plurality of "cells", each of which includes a Base Station Subsystem 131 and associated radio transmission tower 102. The radius of the cell is basically the distance from the base station radio transmission tower 102 to the furthest locus at which good reception between the wireless subscriber device 101 and the radio transmission tower 102 can be effected. The entire service area of a Mobile Telephone Switching Office 106 is therefore covered by a plurality of adjacent cells. There is an industry standard cell pattern in which sets of channels are reused. Within a particular cell, the surrounding cells are grouped in a circle around the first cell and the channels used in these surrounding cells differ from the channels used in the particular cell and from each of the other surrounding cells. Thus, the signals emanating from the radio transmission tower in the particular cell do not interfere with the signals emanating from the radio transmission towers located in each of the surrounding cells because they are at different radio frequencies and have different orthogonal coding. However, in the case of soft handoff, the frequencies must be the same for all cells involved in the soft or softer handoff process. In addition, the next closest cell using the transmission frequency of the particular cell is far enough away from this cell that there is a significant disparity in signal power and therefore sufficient signal rejection at the receivers to ensure that there is no signal interference. The shape of the cell is determined by the surrounding terrain and is typically not circular, but skewed by irregularities in the terrain, the effect of buildings and vegetation and other signal attenuators present in the cell area. Thus, the cell pattern is simply conceptual in nature and does not reflect the actual physical extent on the various cells, since the implemented cells are not hexagonal in configuration and do not have precisely delimited boundary edges.

[0034] The control channels that are available in this system are used to setup the communication connections between the subscriber stations 101 and the Base Station Subsystem 131. When a call is initiated, the control channel is used to communicate between the wireless subscriber device 101 involved in the call and the local serving Base Station Subsystem 131. The control messages locate and identify the wireless subscriber device 101, determine the dialed number, and identify an available voice/data communication channel consisting of a pair of radio frequencies and orthogonal coding which is selected by the Base Station Subsystem 131 for the communication connection. The radio unit in the wireless subscriber device 101 re-tunes the transmitter-receiver equipment contained therein to use these designated radio frequencies and orthogonal coding. Once the communication connection is established, the control messages are typically transmitted to adjust trans-

mitter power and/or to change the transmission channel when required to handoff this wireless subscriber device 101 to an adjacent cell, when the subscriber moves from the present cell to one of the adjoining cells. The transmitter power of the wireless subscriber device 101 is regulated since the magnitude of the signal received at the Base Station Subsystem 131 is a function of the subscriber station transmitter power and the distance from the Base Station Subsystem 131. Therefore, by scaling the transmitter power to correspond to the distance from the Base Station Subsystem 131, the received signal magnitude can be maintained within a predetermined range of values to ensure accurate signal reception without interfering with other transmissions in the cell.

[0035] The voice communications between wireless subscriber device 101 and other subscriber stations, such as land line based subscriber station 109, is effected by routing the communications received from the wireless subscriber device 101 via switching network 106N and trunks to the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) 108 where the communications are routed to a Local Exchange Carrier 125 that serves land line based subscriber station 109. There are numerous Mobile Telephone Switching Offices 106 that are connected to the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) 108 to thereby enable subscribers at both land line based subscriber stations and wireless subscriber devices to communicate between selected stations thereof. This architecture represents the present architecture of the wireless and wireline communication networks. The present communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks 100 is shown connected to the Public Switched Telephone Network 108, the Mobile Telephone Switching Offices 106, as well as a data communication network such as the Internet 107, although these examples of interconnections are subject to an implementation selected by the purveyor of communiqué services and some of these connections can be eliminated as unnecessary for some implementations as described below.

[0036] Format of the Forward CDMA Channel

[0037] FIG. 3 illustrates in block diagram form a typical configuration of the Base Station Subsystem 131 to wireless subscriber device 101 forward CDMA channel used in cellular communication networks. The typical Base Station Subsystem 131 to wireless subscriber device 101 forward CDMA channel comprises a predefined bandwidth centered about a selected carrier frequency. The bandwidth of the selected channel as well as the selected carrier frequency is a function of the technical implementation of the Base Station Subsystem 131 of the cellular communication network and is not discussed further herein. The channel is typically divided into a plurality of segments: Pilot 301, Synchronization (Synch) 302, Paging 303, Traffic 304. The Paging 303 and Traffic 304 segments are further divided into a plurality of channels Ch1-Ch7 and Ch1-Ch55, respectively. Each traffic channel represents a communication space for a selected wireless subscriber device 101. The plurality of paging channels Ch1-Ch7 are available for the Base Station Subsystem 131 to page a selected wireless subscriber device 101 in well-known fashion. In order to segregate these channels, each channel is assigned a selected one of the 64 Walsh codes, from W=0 to W=63. For example, the Pilot channel is assigned a Walsh code of W=0, while the Synch channel is assigned a Walsh code of W=32.

The Paging channels Ch1-Ch7 are assigned Walsh codes of $W=1-W=7$, respectively. The remaining Walsh codes are assigned to the traffic channels CH1-CH55 as shown in FIG. 3. Each Traffic channel consists of data traffic 311 as well as in band signaling 312 transmitted from the Base Station Subsystem 131 to the wireless subscriber device 101.

[0038] Idle Handoff of Wireless Subscriber Devices

[0039] FIG. 2 illustrates in flow diagram form the operation of a typical cellular communication system in implementing an idle handoff mode of operation. An idle handoff occurs when a wireless subscriber device 101 has moved from the coverage area of one Base Station Subsystem 131 into the coverage area of another Base Station Subsystem 141 during the Wireless Station Idle State. As shown in FIG. 2, at step 201, the wireless subscriber device 101 scans for pilot signals for the base stations that serve the coverage area in which the wireless subscriber device 101 is operational. If the wireless subscriber device 101 detects a Pilot channel signal from another base station subsystem 141, that is sufficiently stronger than that of the present Base Station Subsystem 131, the wireless subscriber device 101 determines that an idle handoff should occur. Pilot channels are identified by their offsets relative to the zero offset pilot PN sequence and typically are the Walsh Code 0 for each channel. The wireless subscriber device 101 at step 202 groups pilot offsets into sets describing their status with regard to pilot searching. The following sets of pilot offsets are defined for a wireless subscriber device 101 in the Wireless Station Idle State. Each pilot offset is a member of only one set.

[0040] Active Set:

[0041] The pilot offset of the Forward CDMA Channel whose Paging channel is being monitored.

[0042] Neighbor Set:

[0043] The offsets of the Pilot channels that are likely candidates for idle handoff. The members of the Neighbor Set are specified in the Neighbor List Message, Extended Neighbor List Message, and the General Neighbor List Message.

[0044] Remaining Set:

[0045] The set of all possible pilot offsets.

[0046] In the process of FIG. 2, the wireless subscriber device 101 at step 203 selects the 3 strongest pilot signals for use in establishing/maintaining the cellular communication connection. In this process, the RAKE receiver in the wireless subscriber device 101 at step 207 continuously looks for the strongest pilot signals to ensure the continuation of the cellular communication connection. The wireless subscriber device 101 at step 204 decodes the pilot signals and locks on to the synch channel of selected forward CDMA channels having the strongest pilot signals.

[0047] At step 205, the wireless subscriber device 101 switches to selected Traffic channels, one per selected forward CDMA channel and demodulates the signals received therein and at step 206 outputs the demodulated multi-media output to the user interface of the wireless subscriber device 101 for use by the subscriber.

[0048] As described herein, the overhead required in point to point cellular communications to manage hand-offs

between cells within the cellular communication network is considerable and continuous, since many of the wireless subscriber devices served by the cellular communication network are mobile in nature. In the present communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks, the need for this overhead in processing call hand-offs is reduced since the wireless subscriber device is not provided with a unique communication link, but shares this link with many other wireless subscriber devices. There are a number of communiqué implementations that can be overlaid on this standard handoff process.

[0049] Wireline Communication Network Architecture

[0050] FIG. 1C illustrates in block diagram form the overall architecture of a typical wireline-based communication network in which the present communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks 100 is operational. For the purpose of illustrating the communiqué concepts, a broadband cable television network 170 is described, which functions to distribute the communiqués received from the present communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks 100 to selected ones of a plurality of wired subscriber devices 172-174 that are served by the broadband cable television network 170. The following description only provides the high level concepts of the broadband cable television network 170 to simplify the description, since the implementation details of this system are well-known and not pertinent to the implementation of the communiqué service. There are numerous type of wired subscriber devices and those described herein are selected to simply illustrate the operation of the system. There are also other types of wireline-based communication networks that can support the present communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks 100, such as traditional telephone systems, Local Area Networks, and the like. The wireline-based communication networks can use a variety of physical media to interconnect the communiqué wired subscriber devices to the wireline-based communication network and these include: twisted pair, Ethernet, coaxial cable, fiber optic cable, DSL on twisted pair, 4-wire, and the like.

[0051] Existing broadband cable television networks 170 comprise a multi-layer network which are used to distribute program materials, such as video, from program sources that are connected to a head end 171, through the various layers of the multi-layer network to the end user locations. A typical multi-layer network comprises a multiplicity of layers (typically two) interposed between the head-end 171 and the distribution nodes 191-192 that serve a plurality of end user locations. The original broadband cable television networks were engineered to provide a one-way distribution of video program material to the end user locations, therefore 95% of the available data transmission bandwidth in these broadband cable television networks are dedicated to transmissions from the head-end to the end user locations. The upstream path of the broadband cable television network is therefore a critical resource that limits the number of end user locations that can be served by a distribution node and also limits the number and nature of new interactive services that can be offered to the end user locations. Therefore, existing service offerings are limited to those that place a minimal demand on the upstream communication capabilities of the broadband cable television network. In

addition, service providers have limited the number of end user locations that can be served by each passive fiber node in the broadband cable television network to enable the upstream channel to serve these end user locations. Therefore, the bandwidth limitation of the upstream channel in the broadband cable television network represents a service offering limitation and an inefficiency in terms of the number of end user locations that can be served.

[0052] FIG. 1C illustrates in block diagram form the architecture of a typical broadband cable television network. In this network, the various end user locations are typically served by distribution nodes 191-192 which serve to interconnect a plurality of end user locations and their associated wired subscriber devices to ones of secondary hubs 181-185. A plurality of secondary hubs 181-185 are in turn interconnected to and served by primary hubs 175-176, a plurality of which are connected to a head-end 171. The head-end 171 receives data from various sources, and a few typical content sources are shown here. In particular, the head-end 171 is connected to a plurality of content sources. The sources can be a remotely located program source for providing for example network news, such as a national network station 122A that is connected via a satellite uplink 123A and satellite 124A to a satellite downlink 126A and forwarded to satellite interface 117A that is part of the head-end 171 or can use the Public Switched Telephone Network and trunk interface 116D. Alternatively, the program source can be a local program source 120A for local news and information, that is connected via a data communication medium, such as the Internet 107A, to an Internet server interface 115A of the head-end 171. The various program sources provide information of various types, including but not limited to: news, advertisements, traffic, weather, travel information, and the like. Thus, data transmitted to the head-end 171 is forwarded through the primary hubs 175-176 and the secondary hubs 181-185 to the distribution nodes 191-192 and the local loops to the wired subscriber devices at the end user locations.

[0053] The communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks 100 also provides a data input to the head-end 171. This input is the program stream described below and is distributed to the end user locations where the communiqués are presented to the subscribers via the wired subscriber devices. The communiqué wireless subscriber device MS described below provides addressing, registration and authentication functions that are directly applicable to a typical wired subscriber device. For example, the wired subscriber device can be a set top box that serves a television set and is equipped to provide both upstream and downstream communications as noted above. Thus, the cable television network set top box registration can be effected in a manner that is analogous to cellular communication network registration process used for the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS, with the communication channels used for communiqués in the broadband cable television network 170 being the television channels.

[0054] Philosophy of the Communiqué System

[0055] The terms "cell site" and "cell" are sometimes loosely used in the literature, and the term "cell site" generally denotes the locus, such as Base Station Subsystem 131, at which the radio frequency transmitter and receiver apparatus (Base Station Transceiver 133, 143, 144, 153) is

located, while the term "cell" generally denotes the region of space which is served by a particular radio frequency transmitter-receiver pair which is installed in Base Station Transceiver 133 at Base Station Subsystem 131, and includes sectors of a particular cell where the cell comprises a plurality of sectors. The cells can also be the coverage area that is created by in-building wireless communication systems, private wireless networks, as well as wireline-based communication networks. The wired subscriber devices served by a wireline communication network or a segment thereof is considered a cell for the purposes of this description. The particular technology used to implement the communications between wireless subscriber devices and the radio frequency transmitter-receiver pairs and between the head-end and the wired subscriber devices as well as the nature of the data transferred there between, be it voice, video, telemetry, computer data, and the like, are not limitations to the communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks 100 which is described herein, since a novel system concept is disclosed, not a specific technologically limited implementation of an existing system concept. Therefore, the term "cellular" as it is used herein denotes a communication system which operates on the basis of dividing space into a plurality of volumetric sections or cells, and managing communications between wireless subscriber devices located in the cells and the associated radio frequency transmitter-receiver pairs located at the cell site for each of these cells. In addition, the term "telecommunications cell" is used in the general sense and includes a traditional cell generated by a cell site as well as a sector of a cell, as well as a cell elevation sector, regardless of size and shape. The wireless subscriber device, as noted above, can be any of a number of full function communication devices that include: WAP enabled cellular telephones, personal digital assistants, Palm Pilots, personal computers, and the like or special communiqué only communication devices that are specific to communiqué reception; or MP3 audio players (essentially a radio receiver or communiqué radio); or an MPEG4 video receiver (communiqué TV); or other such specialized communication device. The subscriber terminal devices can either be mobile wireless communication devices in the traditional mobile subscriber paradigm, or the fixed wireless communication devices in the more recent wireless product offerings.

[0056] The communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks operates with existing cellular communication networks, as described above, to provide other than strictly point to point communication services, which are collectively termed "communiqué services" herein, to subscribers. The Communiqué can be unidirectional (broadcast) or bi-directional (interactive) in nature and the extent of the Communiqué can be network-wide or narrowcast, where one or more cells and/or cell sectors are grouped to cover a predetermined geographic area or demographic population or subscriber interest group to transmit information to subscribers who populate the target audience for the narrowcast transmissions. For instance, the coverage region can be implemented in the radio frequency domain by using frequency assignments, code assignments or dynamically shaped antenna patterns. Pattern shaping is done now to manage capacity constraint issues (e.g. a cell size would be shaped/shrunk at busy hour with adjacent cells helping to carry a particular region's

traffic). The communiqué system for cellular communication networks can use pattern shaping to create a narrowcast region for instance.

[0057] The communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks 100 creates broadcast and/or narrowcast regions in a "virtual" manner. With this concept, the RF configuration is separable, in that it can be static in its architecture or it could be configured as described above in a dynamic manner. The "virtual" architecture is achieved in the content domain—a very powerful and flexible concept. By selectively enabling and disabling specific content on a cell-by-cell basis, a shaped broadcast or narrowcast can be realized from the end-user's perspective even though the RF configuration may have remained static or unchanged. This is a powerful narrowcast tool since it is relatively simple to dynamically change the specific content being transmitted at a given cell. The combinatorial effect is spatial and temporal in its extent even though the RF architecture may have been unchanged. The methods available to achieve this effect are similar to the zip code advertising systems used in cable TV transmissions wherein regional servers select, parse and reassemble content for a particular geographic region. The content management can also be done on a centralized basis.

[0058] The basic functionality of the communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks 100 comprises an information distribution management functionality that concurrently propagates information to a plurality of wireless subscriber devices, using push, pull and combinations of push/pull data propagation modes. The need for information dissemination is identified: in response to external events, in response to predetermined temporal/spatial stimuli; as a function of subscriber inquiries/requests; and the like. The communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks 100, in response to an identified information dissemination event, identifies a plurality of cells in the cellular communication network as well as available communication channels in each of these cells to carry the information that is to be transmitted to a plurality of wireless subscriber devices extant in the locales served by the selected cells, as well as communication channels and sites served by the wireline communication network. The communication channels can be dedicated to communiqué services or can be selected from the pool of available communication channels. The subscribers access the Communiqués by selecting the communication channel on their wireless subscriber device or wireline subscriber device that carries the Communiqué. The subscriber can be alerted to the presence of the Communiqué in many ways or can activate their wireless subscriber device or wireline subscriber device to retrieve the Communiqué absent any alert being transmitted to the wireless subscriber device or wireline subscriber device. The Communiqué retrieved by the subscriber is not subscriber-unique, in that the Communiqué is transmitted to many subscribers, with a plurality of subscribers concurrently accessing the Communiqué being a typical mode of operation. In addition, the bandwidth required for communiqué services can be variable, with unused channels of the existing cellular communication network being allocated on an as needed basis to communiqué services. Furthermore, the routine point to point cellular communication traffic can be load balanced with the communiqué services, with routine cellular traffic being preferentially served by cells that have unused capacity to

thereby free up channels in other cells for communiqué services. In addition, the communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks 100 identifies the appropriate source of information available from a program source that is to be used to constitute the communiqué service. The information can be a predetermined continuous feed, or can be comprised of a plurality of segments that can be interspersed with advertisements, other information segments and the like.

[0059] Communiqué Wireless Subscriber Devices

[0060] Communiqué wireless subscriber devices MS are end-user devices (such as wireless subscriber devices 101) that are capable of receiving narrowcasted content from broadband cellular networks that deploy next generation architectures such as WCDMA (Wideband Code Division Multiple Access), CDMA2000, HDR (High Data Rate) and so on. This narrowcasted content (communiqué) is multi-media in nature and simultaneously delivered to multiple communiqué wireless subscriber devices. The narrowcasted content includes:

[0061] audio (music, radio shows, news and the like),

[0062] video (MTV-like videos, news, live traffic cams and the like), and

[0063] data (text information, stock quotes, graphical information and the like).

[0064] The end-user devices, herein now called communiqué wireless subscriber devices MS, are, in essence, next generation radio-television-internet receivers for generally unidirectional receipt of transmissions that have a highly targeted demographic focus. The above-noted content are conveyed by Radio Frequency transmissions with the preferred delivery means being next generation, or third generation (3 G), wireless cellular systems in a one-to more than one broadcast or narrowcast mode of operation. The demographic groups used for narrowcasting can range in size from a small neighborhood to a sports stadium as determined by the granularity of the cellular architecture being re-used to deliver the narrowcasted content. The content delivery region and conveyed content are dynamically changeable depending on the associated demographics.

[0065] Communiqué wireless subscriber devices are multi-media devices and, as such, output digital content to the end-user in the following forms:

[0066] Digital Audio

[0067] Digital Video

[0068] Digital Internet

[0069] Digital Text

[0070] Digital Graphics

[0071] The architecture of a communiqué wireless subscriber device is derived from modifications to existing and planned cellular radio architectures. The implementation of Narrowcast/Communiqué capability is largely performed in software/firmware with the wireless radio frequency communication interface remaining very similar to present and future standards. In essence, the architecture is a novel systems overlay leveraging what already exists.

[0072] The present wireless architecture paradigm of circuit switched calls with the connection being exclusively between two single network nodes is obsolete in the narrowcasting mode of operation. Narrowcasting enables a cellular architecture to convey information or content to multiple communiqué wireless subscriber devices at the same time. In order to do this, two general systems problems must first be resolved:

[0073] Multiple communiqué wireless subscriber device Addressing

[0074] Handoffs in a Unidirectional Narrowcast.

[0075] These issues are discussed below.

[0076] FIG. 9 illustrates, in block diagram form, the architecture of a typical embodiment of the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS of the present invention. This particular embodiment of the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS is disclosed to illustrate the concepts of the invention and is not intended to limit the application of the disclosed concepts. The communiqué wireless subscriber device MS is equipped with a processor CONTROL that operates pursuant to instructions that are stored in MEMORY and the subscriber profile information stored in profile memory PS, as is described below. In this particular application, the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS can also contain mobile unit location apparatus, such as global positioning system GPS, to produce an indication of the location of the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS.

[0077] The communiqué wireless subscriber device MS is equipped with transmitter TRANS and receiver RCV circuits well known in cellular communications for providing voice and data communications via a voice data switch VDS. The apparatus also includes antenna VPA, which is typically mounted on an exterior surface of the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS and coupled in well known fashion to the transmitter TRANS and receiver RCV circuits by a duplexer. The power output of the transmitter TRANS can also be dynamically regulated as a function of the distance from the cell site transmitter antenna to ensure a relatively constant signal level, using the Power Control circuit presently available in many cellular radio systems.

[0078] The communiqué wireless subscriber device MS includes a user interface NTR that is equipped with the apparatus necessary to enable the user to receive and input data. For example, the user interface NTR includes a display device VD that produces a human sensible visualization of the data that is received and audio output device LS to produce a human sensible audio output of the received data. The user interface can also include audio input devices MIC and keyboard K (and/or mouse or pointer device) to enable the user to input data in an audible or textual form, respectively. The user interface NTR can optionally include a biometric interface BM that measures an immutable physical characteristic of the user, such as a fingerprint, retina scan, and the like, to enable the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS to authenticate the identity of the user. In addition, the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS can include sensors, or an interface SENI that is adapted to connect to one or more sensors SM1, SM2, to measure selected parameters, such as ambient temperature, velocity, altitude, and the like.

[0079] In the case of a receive-only communiqué wireless subscriber device, it is evident that the implementation described above can be simplified, since the transmitter TRANS is not needed and many of the other capabilities, such as Global Positioning System and the like are likely not required.

[0080] Dynamically Configured Wireless Local Area Networks

[0081] There is presently an effort to manufacture wireless subscriber devices that are interoperable, via short-range, low power communications. These wireless subscriber devices are formed into a small wireless network on an ad hoc basis. Each wireless subscriber device seeks out and configures itself with a resident server device, which can be a permanent access point that is interconnected for example with the communiqué system for cellular communication networks 100 or another wireless subscriber device.

[0082] An example of such a philosophy is presently embodied in the Bluetooth Special Interest Group which uses a wireless paradigm for interoperability of devices using a carrier frequency of between 2,400 MHz and 2,483.5 MHz to support a plurality of data transfer channels, which are either asymmetric or symmetric, as a function of the application that is enabled. The communiqué wireless subscriber device MS therefore can include a dynamic network system DNS that includes a local radio frequency (RF) transceiver LT, a baseband link control unit BU, associated link management control software/hardware LM and an antenna system PA. The transmitter portion of the local radio frequency transceiver LT mixes the baseband information with the frequency hopping local oscillator to generate a frequency-modulated carrier. The receiver portion of the local radio frequency transceiver LT down converts and demodulates the RF signal using the same oscillator in the adjacent time slot. The local radio frequency transceiver LT supports both point-to-point and point-to-multi-point connections. A plurality of wireless subscriber devices so enabled can dynamically configure themselves into a "piconet", with one wireless subscriber device designated as the master and the remaining units as slaves, or a peer-to-peer configuration. The piconet is distinguished from other similar piconets in the vicinity by the frequency hopping sequence. The baseband protocol can be used for both circuit and packet switched transmissions. Synchronous links can be established for voice connections, using reserved time slots, while asynchronous links are dedicated for data transmissions.

[0083] For example, the dynamic network system DNS may be used to serve a single auxiliary handset unit H and/or terminal device HT and can optionally be multiplexed to serve a plurality of auxiliary handset units H, H' and/or terminal devices HT, HT'. The auxiliary handset H and/or terminal device HT can be hard wired to the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS or can be a wireless unit H', HT' of limited communication range that interconnects with the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS via radio frequency transmissions as noted above. In the multi-user application, the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS can comprise a "mini-cell" wherein the various auxiliary handsets H, H' and/or terminal devices HT, HT' are managed by the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS in a manner analogous to that performed by the typical cell

site/MTSO. Thus, the handset units H, H' and/or terminal devices HT, HT' can be of a different technology, with the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS performing an integration function as well as the multiplexing function. The handsets H, H' can be personal communication system (PCS) units, pagers, code division multiple access (CDMA) units, or any other wireless communication devices which are in use by individuals. The communiqué wireless subscriber device MS receives the signals generated by the various handset units and formats (if necessary) the data contained in these transmissions into the format used for the radio link transmissions to the cell site. The communications in the reverse direction are managed in a complementary manner as is well known. The handset units H, H' can each have a unique identification which enables the underlying cellular communication network to communicate with the unit. The communiqué wireless subscriber device MS can therefore perform the handset registration function by polling the handset units extant in the space served by the electronics unit to thereby identify these units. This unit identification data can then be transmitted to the cell site via the control channels to enable the cellular network to ascertain the location of these particular units.

[0084] Communiqué Wireless Subscriber Device—CDMA System Features

[0085] In addition to the above-noted characteristics of the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS, there is an alternative cellular communication system termed Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) which transmits a plurality of communications on each channel and differentiates the various communiqué wireless subscriber devices MS by the code assigned to each communiqué wireless subscriber device MS. These CDMA systems transmit multiple conversations on the same frequency. In order to maintain the overall system noise level at a minimum, the power level of the various communiqué wireless subscriber devices MS must be precisely controlled. With a typical CDMA system, 64 Walsh codes are used to differentiate among the wireless subscriber devices served by a cell site and a predetermined number of these codes can be reserved for the exclusive use by communiqué wireless subscriber devices MS, since generally all of these codes are not all are used in a typical ground-based cell site. Thus, the code separation in a CDMA system can be used to prevent the interference between communiqué wireless subscriber devices MS and the conventional ground-based wireless subscriber devices and their cell sites. In conjunction with unique Walsh code assignments, the network can also assign unique "Wide Area" code words to identify a virtual network overlay.

[0086] The data communication capability of the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS can be enhanced by increasing the bandwidth of the communication connection that is established with the cell site. There are a number of ways to provide an increased bandwidth, including allocating multiple communication channels to the data communication function. Thus, a single call connection for data communication purposes comprises multiple physical communication channels managed in parallel to thereby multiply the data communication capacity associated with a single channel in the system. Alternatively, dedicated data communication channels can be allocated in the defined communication space, with the data communication channels occupying the bandwidth of multiple voice communication

channels. In either case, the data communication capability of the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS can be adapted to suit the needs of the subscriber.

[0087] An example of this is the connection of another terminal device, such as personal computer HT equipped with a modem, to the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS to thereby enable the user to transmit and receive data over the cellular voice communication connection, as is well known. The data can include facsimile transmissions, E-Mail, data files and the like. Additionally, the terminal device HT can include a video display and the data displayed thereon can be entertainment/informational programs that are uploaded from the cell site or a source connected to the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS via a cellular communication connection.

[0088] Communiqué Services in Cellular Communication Networks

[0089] As can be seen from the above description, the transceiver GBR of the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS listens for the strongest pilot signal in one of the available communication channels and uses this pilot signal to derive a time/frequency reference. The communiqué wireless subscriber device MS then demodulates the synch signal for this communication channel to precisely align the clock of the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS with that contained in the Base Station Subsystem 131. For a broadcast mode of operation, the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS must be given information that identifies which PN codes are broadcast/narrowcast signals for this communication channel. This can be accomplished by transmitting directory information to the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS in the pilot or synch signals or by using a predefined PN code for selected broadcast signals.

[0090] Since the cellular communication network continuously transmits the Communiqué signals from various cell sites, there is no statistical reduction of self-interference. Therefore, proper selection of frequencies for transmission and PN codes is necessary to reduce interference. Each PN code space can contain either a single transmission or can be used in a multiplex mode where multiple signals are transmitted. In the latter mode, time slotted baseband data is streamed on a single CDMA waveform by the creation of multiple subchannels in each frame of the transmission. In this manner, lower data rate signals can share a single transmission.

[0091] The Mobile Telephone Switching Office 106, in conjunction with the VLR and HLR, helps to manage the registration process that includes subscriber authorization. The Visitor Location Register 161 and the Home Location Register 162 are essentially sophisticated databases that are hooked to the Mobile Telephone Switching Office 106. The VLR and HLR are sometimes the same device with logical functional partitions although VLRs can stand alone and can be distributed in their deployment while HLRs are typically more centralized. The Communiqué Location Register (CLR) 163, is the apparatus in the communiqué system for cellular communication networks 100 where all of the systems information for subscribers' authorization and service plans reside. This has substantial merit in terms of practical implementation since it can be a wholly separate device that connects to the Mobile Telephone Switching Office 106 or as an integral part of the communiqué system

for cellular communication networks 100. The Communiqué Location Register 163 is attached to the Mobile Telephone Switching Office 106 in a manner similar to the HLR/VLR.

[0092] In order to describe the various services that are available from the communiqué system for cellular communication networks 100, the terms used to describe the processes operational in the recognition of a subscriber and provision of service to a subscriber must be defined. "Acquisition" is the process where the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS scans for pilots, locks onto synch channels and has all system based knowledge necessary to know where and how to receive Communiqués. "Registration" is the process that entails the interchange of information between the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS and the cellular communication network wherein the cellular communication network becomes aware of and knows which subscribers are receiving Communiqués and where they are receiving them. "Authorization" is the process where the communiqué system for cellular communication networks 100 grants end-user access to broadcast or narrowcast content to one or many subscribers in a general or specific location. Thus, a "free" communiqué service has the ACQUISITION process but does not have REGISTRATION or AUTHORIZATION processes. "Subscription" communiqué services have all three processes. "Pre-pay" communiqué services have a modified ACQUISITION process but do not include REGISTRATION or AUTHORIZATION processes. Therefore, the term "autonomous" can be used to describe the "free" broadcast architecture, since the cellular communication network does not know who is listening or where they are listening. This is the equivalent of today's broadcast radio and TV with the exception that the content can be specialized into "free" narrowcasts that have a limited spatial extent which can be dynamically managed. The communiqué wireless subscriber device MS used for such a communiqué service can be a one-way receive only (ultra-low cost) communiqué wireless subscriber device MS. For a communiqué service that includes free broadcasts and subscription services, the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS is not content interactive, meaning communiqué services such as request-reply are not available. The communiqué wireless subscriber device MS is two-way in terms of its communication capability with the network for registration and authorization purposes. A Pre-pay Subscription communiqué service is conceptually similar to the digital TV recorders that have a one-time-only pre-pay subscription fee. This concept uses a modified forward paging channel to provide initialization information for traffic channels and then uses in-band signaling on the forward traffic channel to convey systems information.

[0093] Addressing of Communiqué Wireless Subscriber Devices

[0094] First, a method is needed to "spoof" or fool the existing cellular communication system into sending content to more than one user at a time. Or, in other words, what is needed is an addressing scheme that is consistent with present and future practice but transcends the traditional circuit switched one-to-one architecture. Multiple methods of communiqué wireless subscriber device addressing are possible but one approach stands out as being least invasive in terms of architecture modification. While this method is the preferred approach, it is by no means the only method.

[0095] The preferred embodiment is through the creation of a common MIN or Mobile Identification Number. This universal MIN is deployed ubiquitously across all communiqué wireless subscriber devices. The universal narrowcast MIN enables all communiqué wireless subscriber devices to receive all content wirelessly conveyed to the communiqué wireless subscriber device. This universal MIN is stored in profile memory PS of the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS to thereby enable this device to access the services to which it is authorized. In addition, the universal MIN can be used as a filter, where the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS receives the content, but this does not necessarily mean the end-user has access to it. The universal MIN acts as a portal key merely enabling the narrowcasted content to pass through, as regulated by the subscriber profile information and subscription authorizations stored in profile memory PS and executed by the processor CONTROL. The universal MIN does not determine whether the end-user has usable access to the narrowcasted content. Content access is determined through other means to include a hierarchical subscription type of model. A hierarchical content subscription service ranges from free to subscription access to pay-per-receipt (pay-per-listen, pay-per-view). Only specific types of communiqué wireless subscriber devices are capable of hierarchical content subscriptions since this requires a means for authorized access. One method involves a pre-paid form of lifetime subscription (which doesn't require a bidirectional communiqué wireless subscriber device); another is a method for the communiqué wireless subscriber device to interact with the networks billing/authorization systems to enable end-user access to specific types of services (this is a bidirectional communiqué wireless subscriber device).

[0096] Handoff of Communiqué Wireless Subscriber Devices

[0097] Second, a method is needed to enable a one-way communiqué wireless subscriber device to coordinate its activities as required with the network. In particular, a method to enable handoffs is necessary to provide for seamless coverage. Handoffs can take the following forms:

[0098] Soft (communiqué wireless subscriber device receives from multiple cells simultaneously on the same frequency but different Walsh codes)

[0099] Softer (communiqué wireless subscriber device receives from multiple sectors of a given cell on the same frequency but different Walsh codes)

[0100] Hard (communiqué wireless subscriber device receives from only one cell at a time on a given frequency and then switches frequencies as the handoff occurs to a new cell)

[0101] Digital CDMA architectures use all three types of handoffs while Analog FDMA and Digital TDMA are only capable of hard handoffs. From an architecture perspective then, by solving the handoff problem for CDMA, the general handoff problem is solved for Analog and TDMA since the methods and concepts to perform a hard handoff on a CDMA platform are similar to what is done in Analog and TDMA architectures.

[0102] Types of Communiqué Wireless Subscriber Devices

[0103] When evaluating the two predominant issues, addressing and handoffs, they must be considered in the context of the types of communiqué wireless subscriber devices that are possible, as noted in the following list.

[0104] 1. One Way Narrowcast Reception, Incapable of Bi-Directional Administrative Systems Overhead ("Receive Only").

[0105] 2. One Way Narrowcast Reception, Capable of Bi-Directional Administrative Systems Overhead ("Receive Only, Two-way Admin Overhead").

[0106] 3. Two Way Narrowcast Reception/Transmission, Capable of Bi-Directional Administrative Systems Overhead ("Transmit/Receive, Two-way Admin Overhead").

[0107] While the narrowcast architecture is predominantly one-way from the source to the communiqué wireless subscriber devices, bidirectional communiqués are also possible. The last type of communiqué wireless subscriber device listed above has this capability.

[0108] Each communiqué wireless subscriber device type has a different type of network Registration—the process under which it becomes "connected" to the network. This is different from the Authorization process described previously which enabled access to a particular type of content or narrowcast service. As previously described, the processes herein are for a CDMA architecture which is more complex in terms of its management of communiqué wireless subscriber devices particularly for the types of hand-offs required. The registration processes for an analog or TDMA or hybrid type of architecture are similar in concept and while the other methods are not described in detail here, the conceptual extension to the other architectures (analog/TDMA/hybrid) are well understood by those in the industry.

[0109] Unidirectional Transmission Without Subscriber Registration

[0110] There are numerous possible architectures that can be used to transmit information to the wireless subscriber devices with the architecture selected having an impact on the types of transmissions.

[0111] FIG. 4 illustrates in block diagram form a typical assignment of cells in a cellular communication network for a unidirectional transmission without subscriber registration mode of operation of the present communiqué system for cellular communication networks 100, where a plurality of cells are transmitting Communiqué signals, with each cell using the same frequency and the same Walsh (PN) code for a selected Communiqué. There is a K=3 cell repeat pattern, although alternatively, the cells can be subdivided into three sectors for the same effect. In this manner, the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS does not have to search for the desired Communiqué, since the location is uniform throughout the cellular communication network. The communiqué wireless subscriber device MS is always in soft handoff mode and in the example of FIG. 4, the PN code varies by cell according to the K=3 repeat pattern, so the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS maintains a soft handoff mode with the three PN codes, regardless of the location of the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS

in the cellular communication network. Existing wireless subscriber devices are equipped with three receivers in the rake receiver system that enables operation in this mode.

[0112] Alternatively, adjacent cells (or cell sectors) can transmit the Communiqué signals on different frequencies, but this requires additional complexity in the wireless subscriber device, since the handoff must occur with both frequency and PN code making it a hard handoff. In addition, the lack of uniformity in the transmission frequency requires the wireless subscriber device to receive information from the base station to identify the location of the desired Communiqué in order to enable the wireless subscriber device to lock on to the appropriate combination of frequency and PN code for each cell. One way of avoiding the complexity is illustrated in FIG. 6 where there is a grouping of K=3 for the cells and the Walsh code assignment is static, using a specific Walsh code for each of the K=3 cells, such as Traffic channel 8 (Walsh code W=8) for the cell K=1 and Traffic channel Ch9 (Walsh code W=9) for the cell K=2 and Traffic channel Ch10 (Walsh code W=10) for cell K=3. Therefore, the subscriber does not need additional information from the cellular communication network to receive the broadcast information, since the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS has 3 RAKE receivers, which can each be locked on to one of the three Walsh codes W=8-W=10 used in the K=3 repeat scenario. The communiqué wireless subscriber device MS can always be in a soft handoff mode to ensure that continual reception of the transmission takes place as the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS receives signals from the three predetermined Traffic channels.

[0113] For the "Receive Only" type of communiqué wireless subscriber device, the following FIG. 2 describes the preferred registration algorithm although others are certainly possible (IS95 architecture adaptation). This is described as an Autonomous Registration since the network is unaware of the communiqué wireless subscriber device activity and the communiqué wireless subscriber device is incapable of communicating with the network.

[0114] FIG. 2 illustrates in flow diagram form the operation of a typical cellular communication system in implementing an idle handoff mode of operation. An idle handoff occurs when a communiqué wireless subscriber device MS has moved from the coverage area of one Base Station Subsystem 131 into the coverage area of another Base Station Subsystem 141 during the Wireless Station Idle State. As shown in FIG. 2, at step 201, the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS scans for pilot signals for the base stations that serve the coverage area in which the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS is operational. If the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS detects a Pilot channel signal from another Base Station Subsystem 141, that is sufficiently stronger than that of the present Base Station Subsystem 131, the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS determines that an idle handoff should occur. Pilot channels are identified by their offsets relative to the zero offset pilot PN sequence and typically are the Walsh Code 0 for each channel. The communiqué wireless subscriber device MS at step 202 groups pilot offsets into sets describing their status with regard to pilot searching. The following sets of pilot offsets are defined for a communiqué wireless subscriber device MS in the Wireless Station Idle State. Each pilot offset is a member of only one set.

[0115] Active Set:

[0116] The pilot offset of the Forward CDMA Channel whose Paging channel is being monitored.

[0117] Neighbor Set:

[0118] The offsets of the Pilot channels that are likely candidates for idle handoff. The members of the Neighbor Set are specified in the Neighbor List Message, Extended Neighbor List Message, and the General Neighbor List Message.

[0119] Remaining Set:

[0120] The set of all possible pilot offsets.

[0121] In the process of FIG. 2, the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS at step 203 selects the 3 strongest pilot signals for use in establishing/maintaining the cellular communication connection. In this process, the RAKE receiver in the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS at step 207 continuously looks for the strongest pilot signals to ensure the continuation of the cellular communication connection. The communiqué wireless subscriber device MS at step 204 decodes the pilot signals and locks on to the synch channel of selected forward CDMA channels having the strongest pilot signals.

[0122] At step 205, the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS switches to selected Traffic channels, one per selected forward CDMA channel as determined by a communiqué identifier stored in the profile memory PS and demodulates the signals received therein and at step 206 outputs the demodulated multi-media output to the appropriate devices of the user interface NTR of the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS for use by the subscriber.

[0123] As described herein, the overhead required in point to point cellular communications to manage hand-offs between cells within the cellular communication network is considerable and continuous, since many of the wireless subscriber devices served by the cellular communication network are mobile in nature. In the present communiqué system for cellular communication networks, the need for this overhead in processing call hand-offs is reduced since the wireless subscriber device is not provided with a unique communication link, but shares this link with many other wireless subscriber devices. There are a number of communiqué implementations that can be overlaid on this standard handoff process.

[0124] Specific attributes of the Autonomous Registration Cycle for the "Receive Only" communiqué wireless subscriber device include:

[0125] 1. Adjacent cell pilots are W=0 (Walsh Code zero) but have unique sequence offsets to identify a particular base station from other base stations.

[0126] 2. The synchronization or synch channels have the same offset as the pilot.

[0127] 3. The static traffic channels conveying the narrowcasted content are always fixed within the network deployment using a K=3 algorithm. The communiqué wireless subscriber devices are pre-programmed to know which code sequence to look for (a priori knowledge of where the narrowcast resides).

[0128] 4. Communiqué wireless subscriber devices are in continual soft or softer handoff.

[0129] 5. All Walsh code assignments are static.

[0130] 6. K=3 can be an omni cell grouping or a sector grouping.

[0131] 7. Forward Paging Channels are not used.

[0132] 8. Traffic Channel carries content and network overhead (as an in-band signaling protocol).

[0133] Non-interactive Bi-directional Transmission With Subscriber Registration

[0134] FIG. 7 illustrates in block diagram form a typical assignment of cells in a cellular communication network for a non-interactive bidirectional transmission with subscriber registration mode of operation of the present communiqué system for cellular communication networks 100, where a plurality of cells are transmitting Communiqué signals, with each cell using any frequency and any Walsh (PN) code for a selected Communiqué. This mode of operation enables the cellular communication system to select any repeat pattern of cells, any assignment of Walsh codes for a transmission to thereby enable communiqué services. The communiqué wireless subscriber device MS communicates with the Base Station Subsystem 131 for channel assignment spoofed registration purposes to receive free communiqué services. Thus, the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS does not require a unique MIN for this free communiqué services mode of operation, since billing or authorization is not required. This mode of operation can also be described as a receive-only mode of content delivery, with a bi-directional communication channel administration capability.

[0135] However, for subscription services, as shown in FIG. 7, at step 701, the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS scans for pilot signals from the Base Station Subsystems that serve the coverage area in which the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS is operational. If the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS detects a Pilot Channel signal from another Base Station Subsystem 141, that is sufficiently stronger than that of the present Base Station Subsystem 131, the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS determines that an idle handoff should occur. Pilot Channels are identified by their offsets relative to the zero offset pilot PN sequence and typically are the Walsh Code 0 for each channel. The communiqué wireless subscriber device MS at step 702 groups pilot offsets into sets describing their status with regard to pilot searching. The communiqué wireless subscriber device MS at step 703 selects the 3 strongest pilot signals for use in establishing/maintaining the cellular communication connection. In this process, the RAKE receiver in the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS at step 710 continuously looks for the strongest pilot signals to ensure the continuation of the cellular communication connection. The communiqué wireless subscriber device MS at step 704 decodes the pilot signals and locks on to the synch channel of the 3 selected forward CDMA channels having the strongest pilot signals.

[0136] At step 705, the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS registers with the Base Station Subsystem 131 using their unique EIN and SSD, but a common MIN that is used for communiqué purposes to spoof the base station subsystem 131 into recognizing the communiqué wireless

subscriber device MS without requiring a unique identity for the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS. In addition, the fraud prevention system (software) in the Mobile Telephone Switching Office 106 is disabled for Communiqués since the fraud system rejects multiple simultaneous MINs at different geographic locations. This feature is designed to prevent cloning fraud (more of an artifact for analog versus digital) although multi-MIN fraud detection is used in digital systems as well. The Base Station Subsystem 131 verifies the authorization of this communiqué wireless subscriber device MS to receive the requested service, identifies the inbound call to the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS (shared by potentially many wireless subscriber devices) at step 706 via the Paging channel used by the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS to request this service and, in response to control signals received by the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS from the Base Station Subsystem 131, the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS at step 707 changes to the identified traffic channel that carries the selected Communiqué. The communiqué wireless subscriber device MS at step 709 remains in a soft handoff mode to ensure uninterrupted reception of the Communiqué and also at step 708 outputs the received multi-media data to the user.

[0137] In this scenario, the issue of "push/pull" transmissions was not mentioned. The subscriber at communiqué wireless subscriber device MS can receive "push" data transmissions from a source which are directed to all subscribers of this service by the base station flood paging the MIN associated with this Communiqué. Thus, the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS would potentially have multiple MINs, with one for point to point traditional cellular communications and one for each of the communiqué services to which the subscriber enrolls. Alternatively, the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS can have a single MIN that includes a Communiqué address embedded in the application layer of the application software of the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS that filters the content received by the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS. This filter function distributes the Communiqué access control to the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS to thereby allow the subscriber to access only portions of the MIN enabled received content. Thus, when the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS is active in the service area, the flood page of one of the subscriber's MINs on the paging channel alerts the subscriber of the presence of a Communiqué transmission. The subscriber can activate communiqué wireless subscriber device MS to receive this transmission or can reject the transmission by operating appropriate buttons on the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS. The reverse path on this communiqué channel is disabled, since there are many subscribers simultaneously registering for the Communiqué.

[0138] The Mobile Telephone Switching Office 106, Base Station Controller (BSC) 132, 142, 152 and Base Station Transceiver (BST) 133, 143, 144, 153 need appropriate software and control revisions to not alarm or error when no reverse path transmission on the traffic channel is received from the communiqué device (mobile or fixed). For the provision of subscription or toll services via the non-interactive bi-directional transmission with subscriber registration mode of operation of the present communiqué system for cellular communication networks 100, a plurality of cells transmit Communiqué signals, with each cell using any

frequency and any Walsh (PN) code for a selected Communiqué. This mode of operation enables the cellular communication system to select any repeat pattern of cells, any assignment of Walsh codes for a transmission to thereby enable not only free communiqué services but also subscription services. The communiqué wireless subscriber device MS communicates with the base station 102 for registration purposes, but does not enter an interactive mode once registration is accomplished. Thus, the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS does not require a unique MIN for this mode of operation, since the subscription billing and authorization can be implemented using the ESN and/or SSD of the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS or other such unique identifier.

[0139] The difference with this process compared to that of FIG. 2 is that the registration process of step 705 consists of the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS transmitting the spoofing MIN as well as the SSD and/or ESN to the Base Station Subsystem 131 in a brief data exchange on the reverse CDMA paging channel to log the subscriber in to the selected subscription or toll services. If required, the subscriber can use the biometric device MU to authenticate the purchase of services, since the immutable physical characteristic measured by the biometric device BU guarantees the identity of the subscriber. The forward page to the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS can include the Traffic channel identification of the subscribed services and the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS responds on the reverse CDMA channel with the subscriber registration information. Much of the communications to effect soft handoff and registration can be carried in-band on the reverse CDMA channel.

[0140] To summarize, some of the attributes of this particular embodiment include:

[0141] 1. Walsh assignments can be dynamic. This provides flexibility in planning and deploying the network.

[0142] 2. Not constrained to K=3 architectures. This enables improved management of self-interference.

[0143] 3. The system manages handoffs: soft, softer and hard.

[0144] 4. Enables subscription types of narrowcast services.

[0145] 5. Supports free narrowcasts.

[0146] 6. Does not support interactive narrowcasts.

[0147] 7. Can do a hard handoff if necessary.

[0148] The following are architectural features of this topology:

[0149] 1. All communiqué wireless subscriber devices have the same MIN.

[0150] 2. Subscription billing/authorization is done through means other than the MIN by using other unique identifiers such as the ESN (Electronic Serial Number) or SSD (Shared Secret Data). Alternatively, a NID (Narrowcast ID) could be created however this doesn't exist today.

[0151] 3. Base Station Subsystems (BSS) are "spoofed" into thinking a call (inbound to the com-

muniqué wireless subscriber device) is always in place and needs to always be added whenever requested.

[0152] 4. Fraud prevention software needs to be “spoofed” also. Disable fraud software for a given MIN.

[0153] 5. Minimize reverse access channel paging congestion by priority assignment less than circuit switched voice traffic.

[0154] 6. “Continuous” flood page to a specified MIN on the forward paging channel. Flood page has lower priority than circuit switched call pages.

[0155] 7. Overall objective is to minimize forward paging channel congestion.

[0156] 8. Disable reverse path traffic channel on communiqué wireless subscriber device and error/loss measurement of carrier software at BTS/BSC. The reverse path traffic channel is disabled because the system is incapable of supporting of very large numbers of simultaneously transmitting communiqué wireless subscriber devices on one reverse traffic channel.

[0157] Interactive Bi-directional Transmission With Subscriber Registration

[0158] This type of communiqué wireless subscriber device has the highest level of functionality and complexity. It adds two-way communiqué capability to the “Receive Only, Two-Way Admin Overhead” communiqué wireless subscriber device described above. This capability can be termed “Two Way Narrowcast Reception/Transmission, Capable of Bi-Directional Administrative Systems Overhead” to emphasize the fact that the content transmission as well as the administrative information transmissions are bidirectional. The registration process for this communiqué wireless subscriber device MS is identical for that described above in FIG. 7 for the non-interactive transmission with subscriber registration, but the communiqué wireless subscriber device MS also has the capability to transmit data in the reverse direction, to the Base station Subsystem.

[0159] In essence, this communiqué wireless subscriber device MS is a fully functional cellular phone capable of receiving one-way communiqués in a blind radio like fashion (not transmit capable). It is also capable of receiving one-way communiqués with bidirectional administrative overhead capability for registration and channel assignment. And the final functionality is reverse path (mobile to base) communiqué capability. This reverse path communiqué capability can be implemented in a packet or circuit switched manner and can be coordinated or uncoordinated with respect to the one-way communiqué being transmitted from the base station. For instance, if a football game narrowcast (one-way from base to mobile) is taking place on a particular channel and the narrowcast region in this example is the stadium, individual subscribers can interact by sending back their vote for Most Valuable Player (MVP) on the reverse communiqué channel. In practice, the preferred method is to architect this channel in a packet switched mode enabling multiple end-users access on a demand basis using a variety of protocols such as aloha or slotted aloha. While it is possible to have the reverse

communiqué channel be circuit switched, this architecture is not designed for thin route types of data transfer from large numbers of end-users.

[0160] In summary, the “Transmit/Receive, Two-way Admin Overhead” communiqué wireless subscriber device MS is a full function device capable of three modes of operation with the highest functionality being the mode wherein the device is capable of reverse path communiqués. The reverse path communiqué can have the same registered subscribers as the coincident forward path communiqué or the reverse path communiqué could have a unique narrowcast group. The communiqué group for reverse path (mobile to base) communiqués does not have to coincide with the communiqué assignments on the forward path (base-to-mobile). An example would be a college classroom where virtual learning is taking place (students are not in the classroom). The college professor, while conducting a live lecture, is able to “call-on” individual students by enabling their individual reverse path communiqué channel while disabling other students access. Similarly, communiqué auctions can occur where individual auction participants, or bidders, may have reverse communiqué access only when their pre-approved bid maximum is under the current bidding price. However, even when a bidder is no longer authorized to bid, the bidder receives the on-going auction live as a narrowcast to their audio/visual display.

[0161] Of importance, each communiqué wireless subscriber device! MS now becomes a content source in a peer-to-peer architecture where each communiqué wireless subscriber device has the ability to send information to other users in its reverse path communiqué group. A classic example is the sharing of MP3 music files on a peer-to-peer OR peer-to-“narrowcast communiqué” group basis. This is a revolutionary paradigm that transcends traditional point-point architecture designs. One example is a teenager chat group. The forward path narrowcasted communiqué from the high school’s Prom Committee may only be available at or near the high school. But, individual Prom Committee members can have their own narrowcast communiqué group where communication is bidirectional and only to those members who have authorized access.

[0162] Communiqué Wired Subscriber Devices

[0163] Communiqué wired subscriber devices WS are end-user devices that are capable of receiving narrowcasted content from broadband wireline-based communication networks that deploy next generation architectures such as DOCSIS. This narrowcasted content (communiqué) is multimedia in nature and simultaneously delivered to multiple communiqué wired subscriber devices. The narrowcasted content includes:

[0164] audio (music, radio shows, news and the like),

[0165] video (MTV-like videos, news, live traffic cams and the like), and

[0166] data (text information, stock quotes, graphical information and the like).

[0167] The end-user devices, herein now called communiqué wired subscriber devices WS, are, in essence, next generation radio-television-internet receivers for generally unidirectional receipt of transmissions that have a highly targeted demographic focus. The above-noted content are

conveyed by wireline transmissions, with the preferred delivery means being next generation broadband wireline-based communication networks in a one-to more than one broadcast or narrowcast mode of operation. The demographic groups used for narrowcasting can range in size from a small neighborhood to a sports stadium as determined by the granularity of the broadband wireline-based communication network being re-used to deliver the narrowcasted content. The content delivery region and conveyed content are dynamically changeable depending on the associated demographics.

[0168] Communiqué wired subscriber devices are multimedia devices and, as such, output digital content to the end-user in the following forms:

- [0169] Digital Audio
- [0170] Digital Video
- [0171] Digital Internet
- [0172] Digital Text
- [0173] Digital Graphics

[0174] The architecture of a communiqué wired subscriber device is derived from modifications to existing and planned wired device architectures. The implementation of Narrowcast/Communiqué capability is largely performed in software/firmware with the communication interface remaining very similar to present and future standards. In essence, the architecture is a novel systems overlay leveraging what already exists.

[0175] FIG. 14 illustrates, in block diagram form, the architecture of a typical embodiment of the communiqué wired subscriber device WS of the present invention. This particular embodiment of the communiqué wired subscriber device WS is disclosed to illustrate the concepts of the invention and is not intended to limit the application of the disclosed concepts. The communiqué wired subscriber device WS is equipped with a processor CONTROL that operates pursuant to instructions that are stored in MEMORY and the subscriber profile information stored in profile memory PS, as is described below.

[0176] The communiqué wired subscriber device WS is equipped with transmitter TRANS and receiver RCV circuits well known in cable television communications for providing voice and data communications via a voice data switch VDS. The communiqué wired subscriber device WS includes a user interface NTR that is equipped with the apparatus necessary to enable the user to receive and input data. For example, the user interface NTR includes a display device VD that produces a human sensible visualization of the data that is received and audio output device LS to produce a human sensible audio output of the received data. The user interface can also include audio input devices MIC and keyboard K (and/or mouse or pointer device) to enable the user to input data in an audible or textual form, respectively. The user interface NTR can optionally include a biometric interface BM that measures an immutable physical characteristic of the user, such as a fingerprint, retina scan, and the like, to enable the communiqué wired subscriber device WS to authenticate the identity of the user. In addition, the communiqué wired subscriber device WS can include sensors, or an interface SENI that is adapted to

connect to one or more sensors SM1, SM2, to measure selected parameters, such as ambient temperature, velocity, altitude, and the like.

[0177] In the case of a receive-only communiqué wired subscriber device, it is evident that the implementation described above can be simplified, since the transmitter TRANS is not needed and many of the other capabilities are likely not required.

[0178] Dynamically Configured Wireless Local Area Networks

[0179] There is presently an effort to manufacture wireless subscriber devices that are interoperable, via short-range, low power communications. These wireless subscriber devices are formed into a small wireless network on an ad hoc basis. Each wireless subscriber device seeks out and configures itself with a resident server device, which can be a permanent access point, such as a communiqué wired subscriber device WS that is interconnected for example with the communiqué system for cellular communication networks 100 or another communiqué wired subscriber device.

[0180] An example of such a philosophy is presently embodied in the Bluetooth Special Interest Group which uses a wireless paradigm for interoperability of devices using a carrier frequency of between 2,400 MHz and 2,483.5 MHz to support a plurality of data transfer channels, which are either asymmetric or symmetric, as a function of the application that is enabled. The communiqué wired subscriber device WS therefore can include a dynamic network system DNS that includes a local radio frequency (RF) transceiver LT, a baseband link control unit BU, associated link management control software/hardware LM and an antenna system PA. The transmitter portion of the local radio frequency transceiver LT mixes the baseband information with the frequency hopping local oscillator to generate a frequency-modulated carrier. The receiver portion of the local radio frequency transceiver LT down converts and demodulates the RF signal using the same oscillator in the adjacent time slot. The local radio frequency transceiver LT supports both point-to-point and point-to-multi-point connections. A plurality of wireless subscriber devices so enabled can dynamically configure themselves into a "piconet", with one wireless subscriber device designated as the master and the remaining units as slaves, or a peer-to-peer configuration. The piconet is distinguished from other similar piconets in the vicinity by the frequency hopping sequence. The baseband protocol can be used for both circuit and packet switched transmissions. Synchronous links can be established for voice connections, using reserved time slots, while asynchronous links are dedicated for data transmissions.

[0181] For example, the dynamic network system DNS may be used to serve a single auxiliary handset unit H and/or terminal device HT and can optionally be multiplexed to serve a plurality of auxiliary handset units H, H' and/or terminal devices HT, HT'. The auxiliary handset H and/or terminal device HT can be hard wired to the communiqué wired subscriber device WS or can be a wireless unit H', HT of limited communication range that interconnects with the communiqué wired subscriber device WS via radio frequency transmissions as noted above. In the multi-user application, the communiqué wired subscriber device WS

can comprise a "mini-cell" wherein the various auxiliary handsets H, H' and/or terminal devices HT, HT' are managed by the communiqué wired subscriber device WS in a manner analogous to that performed by the typical cell site/MTSO. Thus, the handset units H, H' and/or terminal devices HT, HT' can be of a different technology, with the communiqué wired subscriber device WS performing an integration function as well as the multiplexing function. The handsets H, H' can be personal communication system (PCS) units, pagers, code division multiple access (CDMA) units, or any other wireless communication devices which are in use by individuals. The communiqué wired subscriber device WS receives the signals generated by the various handset units and formats (if necessary) the data contained in these transmissions into the format used for the radio link transmissions to the cell site. The communications in the reverse direction are managed in a complementary manner as is well known. The handset units H, H' can each have a unique identification which enables the underlying cellular communication network to communicate with the unit. The communiqué wireless subscriber device MS can therefore perform the handset registration function by polling the handset units extant in the space served by the electronics unit to thereby identify these units. This unit identification data can then be transmitted to the cell site via the control channels to enable the cellular network to ascertain the location of these particular units.

[0182] The communiqué wired subscriber device WS can implement the three above-noted functionalities using communiqué address and communiqué device identifier data in a manner that is analogous to that described above for the communiqué wireless subscribed device MS. The communication protocol that is implemented for this purpose is dependent on the underlying communication protocol extant in the particular wireline-based communication network that serves the communiqué wired subscriber device WS.

[0183] Content Delivery

[0184] The content of the Communiqués can vary widely and include but are not limited to: free information, subscription-based information, toll-based information, and the like, as noted above. The content can be locally generated or remotely generated, with the propagation of the information to the various cell sites being implemented in a number of ways. FIGS. 1A-1C illustrate in block diagram form the overall architecture of a typical content delivery network for the present communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks 100. In particular, there is a Program Manager 113 that functions to receive the program source information from multiple sources and migrate information to selected cell sites for transmission to the subscribers served by these cell sites. The Spatial-Temporal Content Manager 114 defines the geographic area or demographic population or subscriber interest group that are the metrics used to transmit information to subscribers who populate the target audience for narrowcast transmissions. The Spatial-Temporal Content Manager 114 also can include the selection of frequencies and PN codes that are used by each cell site to transmit the Communiqués to subscribers. The basic content delivery network is independent of the existing radio frequency cellular communication network, but is cooperatively operative with the cellular communication network. Thus, it is expected that part of the functionality described herein for the content delivery network can

be part of or integrated with the cellular communication network, as a matter of expediency. The degree to which the content delivery network is incorporated into the cellular communication network or even into the communiqué system for cellular communication networks 100 varies and does not diminish the applicability of the concepts embodied in the communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks 100.

[0185] As shown in block diagram form in FIGS. 1A-1C, the sources of data for the communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks 100 can be varied, and a few typical content sources are shown here to illustrate the concepts of the communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks 100. In particular, the communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks 100 is connected to a plurality of content sources. The sources can be a remotely located program source for providing for example network news, such as a national network station 122 that is connected via a satellite uplink 123 and satellite 124 to a satellite downlink 126 and forwarded to satellite interface 117 that is part of the communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks 100 or can use the Public Switched Telephone Network and trunk interface 116B. Alternatively, the program source can be a local program source 120 for local news and information, that is connected via a data communication medium, such as the Internet 107, to an Internet server interface 115 of the communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks 100. In addition, a program source, such as local program source 121 is connected via the Public Switched Telephone Network 108 to a trunk interface 116A of the communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks 100. In addition, a local terminal device 127 can be connected via interface 110 to the communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks 100 for inputting information. The various program sources provide information of various types, including but not limited to: news, advertisements, traffic, weather, travel information, and the like.

[0186] The communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks 100 also includes a local mass storage memory 119 for storing control instructions for use by processor 118 as well as program material received from the various program sources identified above. A processor complex that includes Spatial-Temporal Content Manager 114 to manage the definition of the cells to which a particular Communiqué is transmitted controls the communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks 100. Furthermore, communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks 100 includes Program Manager 113 to integrate information received from the various program sources into Communiqués that are transmitted over selected Traffic channels of the forward CDMA channel within one or more cells as identified by the Spatial-Temporal Content Manager 114. The Communiqués generated by the Program Manager 113 are transmitted to the various Base Station Subsystems 131-151 identified by the Spatial-Temporal Content Manager 114 either directly or via the associated Mobile Telephone Switching Office 106. The Program Manager 113 functions to assemble program streams as described below and transmits the program streams containing the Commu-

niques via a selected communication medium, such as the Public Switched Telephone Network 108, using network interface 116A, or some other communication medium, such as an IP network.

[0187] Content Domain Narrowcast

[0188] An alternative to the use of centralized, predetermined Communiques that are formatted at the communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks 100 and transmitted via the Base Station Subsystems 132, 142, 152 to the wireless subscriber devices, the delivery of information can be effected by using the content domain as a distribution format. The content domain enables the communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks 100 to achieve a dynamic, changeable broadcast/narrowcast without modifying or reconfiguring the RF network domain.

[0189] In particular, a broadband program stream containing all information for all cells can be created by the Spatial-Temporal Content Manager 114. This information, such as that described below with respect to FIG. 8, is delivered to the Mobile Telephone Switching Office 106 for distribution to all relevant Base Station Subsystems 132, 142, 152. The Base Station Subsystems 132, 142, 152 can either parse the information contained in the frame into a plurality of Communiques for transmission in their cells, such as the plurality of cells included in coverage areas A-C shown on FIG. 12. Alternatively, the information can be passed directly to the wireless subscriber devices for parsing therein. However, it is expected that the bandwidth limitations in the communication link from the Base Station Subsystems 132, 142, 152 to the wireless subscriber devices render the former parsing scheme preferable to parsing at the wireless subscriber device. Yet another alternative is the hierarchical parsing of the information, where the Base Station Subsystems 132, 142, 152 parse the received information frame into a plurality of subframes of similar format and reduced content for transmission to the wireless subscriber devices for further parsing of the subframes into the individual Communiques. This process utilizes the available bandwidth to provide the wireless subscriber devices with the information necessary to produce a number of Communiques, thereby eliminating the need for the Base Station Subsystems 132, 142, 152 to communicate with the wireless subscriber devices to switch channels to access other Communiques. This distributed switching and hierarchical information delivery architecture thereby reduces the Paging channel traffic for the Base Station Subsystems 132, 142, 152.

[0190] The Spatial-Temporal Content Manager 114 controls the actual information that is transmitted from each cell site by sending program stream parsing control signals to routers contained in the Base Station Controllers 132, 142, 152 at each cell site which then, on a distributed basis, re-assemble the broadband program stream containing all information for all cells into a data stream that is only relevant for that particular cell. By grouping cells as shown on FIG. 12 into "content similar blocks" or more specifically coverage areas A-C, the Spatial-Temporal Content Manager 114 has commanded the routers at the cell sites to parse the broadband program stream identically for the grouped cells (as predefined by the systems programming or a content programming operator), the effect of a narrowcast

can be achieved without modifying the RF network architecture. From the subscriber's perspective, he is only receiving narrowcast information when in the grouped cells' transmission range. As the subscriber moves from one region to another, the broadcast/narrowcast Communiqué received may be different depending on the spatial programming of the Spatial-Temporal Content Manager 114. Also, over time, a given narrowcast region may change in its physical shape or disappear altogether.

[0191] The operation of this Spatial-Temporal Content Manager 114 is illustrated in flow diagram form in FIG. 11 where at step 1101 each cell in the cellular communication network is served by the communiqué system for cellular communication networks 100 is assigned a unique address, using a selected protocol, such as TCP/IP. At step 1102, the cells are grouped into collections comprising coverage areas. The program content in the form of Communiques are selected at step 1103 and assigned to destinations, using the cell addresses assigned at step 1101. At step 1104, the Communiqué schedule is defined in terms of time of transmission, duration of transmission, duration of narrowcast region, temporal and/or spatial characteristics of narrowcast region, and the like. Finally, at step 1105, the identified Communiques are transmitted to the selected cells using the assigned cell addresses. The transmission can occur on a real time basis where the Communiques are provided to the cells at the time they are to be broadcast, or the Communiques can be distributed in advance of transmission and stored for future transmission. The process of FIG. 11 then returns to either step 1101 where address information is updated as needed or step 1102 where the cell groupings are modified and the process cycles through the above-noted steps as required.

[0192] One disadvantage of this particular distributed re-assemble approach is with a CDMA architecture designed to operate in soft or softer handoff (this limitation is not present in an analog or TDMA architecture since they do not operate in soft handoff). Since the data streams must be identical for the wireless subscriber device to operate in soft handoff, as a subscriber transitions from the boundary of one narrowcast region to another, the number of cell sites available to be in soft handoff is varying and could be zero. One method for solving this limited shortcoming is to broadcast the broadband content stream from all sites all the time and put the router function within the wireless subscriber device itself. Commands on how to re-assemble the content is based on an subscriber's physical location and the signaling is done on an in-band basis (i.e. the data parsing commands are contained within the traffic channel in a TDM fashion). This reduces the effective available bandwidth for a narrowcast since much of the broadband content is not for a given subscriber and is "thrown" away by a given subscriber. It also places higher computing power at the wireless subscriber device in order to parse the data. Again, if soft handoff is not required for reliable CDMA operation, the aforementioned limitation is not a concern and parsing can be done at the cell site. And, in either parsing scheme, distributed at the cell site or distributed at the wireless subscriber device, if the content is overlaid on an analog or TDMA network, the soft handoff limitation is not an issue.

[0193] Management of Spatial-Temporal Control of Distributed Content

[0194] Conceptually, the programming of the broadcast/narrowcast regions for management by the Program Manager 113 is done initially by content operators (people) who pre-program the system for content distribution. As a general principle, the content can be classified into groups such as:

Diurnal Narrowcasts	(e.g. AM/PM traffic reports along highways)
Special Narrowcasts	(e.g. football game, art-in-the-park)
Campuses	(e.g. schools, work complexes)
General	(e.g. news weather sports)
Other	

[0195] Much of the programming is repetitive and only needs to be done once i.e. a diurnal narrowcast. One-time only events can be programmed in advance, and say for a football game, can retain all of the programming features such as its spatial coverage extent, and only need to be recalled and given a new narrowcast execution time window. From a user interface perspective, imagine a GUI that displays all of the cells available for a broadcast/narrowcast wherein an operator can select given cells to form a narrowcast region. This region is then saved as a narrowcast group. Next, the operator goes to another GUI screen that contains all available broadcast information and selects which content files are appropriate for the narrowcast group just previously designed. Last, the operator defines the time window for the narrowcast. By repeating this process and building a database of spatial, temporal and content information, all requisite knowledge is programmed into the system for a 24 hour 7 day operation in the Spatial-Temporal Content Manager.

[0196] The database, at a minimum, has the following fields:

- [0197] Start Time
- [0198] Stop Time
- [0199] Narrowcast Cell Grouping
- [0200] Broadcast Cell Grouping
- [0201] Narrowcast Content Stream
- [0202] Broadcast Content Stream
- [0203] Other

[0204] Format of the Forward CDMA Channel for Communiqué Architectures

[0205] FIG. 5 illustrates in block diagram form a typical configuration of the Base Station Subsystem 131 to wireless subscriber device 101 forward CDMA channel used for Communiqué transmissions in cellular communication networks. As noted above, the typical Base Station Subsystem 131 to wireless subscriber device 101 forward CDMA channel comprises a predefined bandwidth centered about a selected carrier frequency. The bandwidth of the selected channel as well as the selected carrier frequency is a function of the technical implementation of the base station of the cellular network and is not discussed further herein. The communication space for Communiqué transmissions is

typically divided into a plurality of segments: Pilot 501, Synchronization (Synch) 502, Traffic 503. The Traffic 503 segment is further divided into a plurality of channels Ch1-Ch62. Each traffic channel represents a communication space for a selected wireless subscriber device 101. The plurality of traffic channels CH1-CH62 as shown in FIG. 5 are assigned the remaining Walsh codes. Each Traffic channel consists of data traffic as well as in band signaling transmitted from the Base Station Subsystem 131 to the wireless subscriber device 101, as noted above.

[0206] Typical Content Transmission Format

[0207] FIG. 8 illustrates in block diagram form a typical signaling protocol for use in the present communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks 100. A frame 800 can be used to transmit both content as well as control information and a broadcast guide. The frame 800 is shown in one typical form, although the particulars of the frame 800 can vary as a function of the use of this element. In particular as noted above, a broadband program stream containing all information for all cells can be created by the Spatial-Temporal Content Manager 114. This information is delivered to the Mobile Telephone Switching Office 106 via a communication medium, such as the Public Switched Telephone Network 108, for distribution to all relevant Base Station Subsystems 132, 142, 152. The Base Station Subsystems 132, 142, 152 can either parse the information contained in the frame into a plurality of Communiqués for transmission in their cells, such as the plurality of cells included in coverage areas A-C shown on FIG. 12. Alternatively, the information can be passed directly to the wireless subscriber devices for parsing therein. Yet another alternative is the hierarchical parsing of the information, where the Base Station Subsystems 132, 142, 152 parse the received information frame into a plurality of subframes of similar format and reduced content for transmission to the wireless subscriber devices for further parsing of the subframes into the individual Communiqués.

[0208] The frame 800 has a plurality of constituent parts, including a Header 801, Administration 802, Data 803 and Trailer 804. The Header 801 and Trailer 804 are used to identify the beginning and end of the Frame 800 and can include error check bits to ensure proper transmission of the data. The Administration 802 is used to convey various control information to the Base Station Subsystem and to the wireless subscriber device. The Administration 802 can include a Radio Frequency Configuration segment 811, which defines the Traffic channel on which the frame is to be broadcast. The remaining segments of the Administration 802 consist of a "Program Guide" 812 which includes a schedule segment 821 to define the time at which the frame is to be transmitted and the information parsing data, content definition segment 822 which defines the content of the data section 803 of the frame 800 (and optionally the information parsing data), Authorization segment 823 which defines the type of service associated with the content of the data section 803 of the frame 800. Advertisements 824 can also be included in the Program Guide 812, along with optional special services 825, such as traffic reports 841, public service announcements 842 and the like 843. Other segments 826 can optionally be included. In the content segment 822, the content definitions describe the information that is available, and a plurality of such elements are shown

to illustrate this concept, including but not limited to: music 831, 832, sports 833 and other programs 834.

[0209] It is evident that this example of a format is simply an illustration and it is expected that numerous variations can be implemented that fall within the scope of the concept taught herein. In particular, in the case of hierarchical parsing, the frame that is transmitted to the wireless subscriber device would be a reduced content version of frame 800, since the content would be reduced to match the bandwidth capabilities of the communication link from the Base Station Subsystems 132, 142, 152 to the wireless subscriber devices.

[0210] The dynamic adaptation of the narrowcast coverage areas and the selection of information transmitted to subscribers located in these narrowcast coverage areas is accomplished by the communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks 100, operating in cooperation with the Mobile Telephone Switching Office 106. The Program Manager 113 and the Spatial-Temporal Communiqué Manager 114 operate to determine: the presence of subscribers in a particular cell, the presence of external events, the movement of the subscribers from cell to cell, the available programs that are to be transmitted to the subscribers, and then process this information to create the Communiqués and the narrowcast coverage areas. This is accomplished in part by the communication between the communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks 100, operating in cooperation with the Mobile Telephone Switching Office 106 in which the above-noted information is exchanged. In addition, the communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks 100 maintains data in memory 119 that defines the call coverage area of the cells so that the external events can be mapped to locales and their associated serving cells.

[0211] Program Stream Management

[0212] FIG. 13 illustrates a typical stream for a plurality of communication channels as applied to the typical dynamic coverage areas. Communiqués are formed by the Program Manager, 113, and the Spatial Temporal Communiqué Manager 114, and delivered to the cellular system via the Public Switched Telephone Network 108, which is comprised of a grouping of various architectures (circuit, packet switched (e.g. TCP/IP), ATM, frame relay, satellite and so on) to convey the information from the Communiqué System 100, to the Mobile Telephone Switching Office 106, to Base Station Subsystem 131, 141, 151 and ultimately to Base Station Transceiver 133, 143, 144, 153 for transmission as a broadcast/narrowcast Communiqué to the various wireless subscriber devices. The Communiqués can be labeled in any manner appropriate for composite system operation, and for this example, the Communiqués are given alpha designators (A, B, C and so on). A given Communiqué may have spatial relevance and could be targeted by the Spatial Temporal Communiqué Manager 114, for delivery to a specific region.

[0213] As shown in FIG. 13, the example Communiqué A comprises programming from sources:

[0214] National Source 122, content residing at key media nodes (in a centralized manner);

[0215] Regional Source 120, content residing at a plurality of media nodes attached to the Internet (in a centralized/decentralized manner);

[0216] Local Source 121, content residing at a plurality of media nodes connected via the Local Exchange Carrier (in a decentralized manner);

[0217] Local Source 127, content residing at end-user nodes (in a decentralized manner).

[0218] The content from Regional Source 120 is diverse in its substance and embodies the plethora of media available on the Internet (data, stock quotes, music, video, email, special interest, sports, news and so on). The content from National Source 122 comprises more general information that is applicable to many Communiqués such as news, weather and sports. The content from Local Source 127 is information gathered and conveyed by the end-user in an active or passive mode. An example of Active information is identifying that a particular lane on a particular highway is blocked. Passive information may be reporting of outside air temperature.

[0219] To generate Communiqué A as shown in FIG. 13, the Program Manager 113, collects and collates all available content from sources 120, 122 and 127 from the universe of All Content Sources and forms/creates/parses 120, 122 and 127 to the desired, predetermined information stream thereby creating Communiqué A. Communiqué A contains the following content in this example:

[0220] From Regional Source 120:

[0221] stock quotes (free to the end-user)

[0222] music (channelized) (free/subscription to the end-user)

[0223] composite traffic flow map (subscription to the end-user)

[0224] other

[0225] From National Source 122:

[0226] news (free to the end user)

[0227] weather (free to the end user)

[0228] sports (free to the end user)

[0229] other

[0230] From Local Source 127:

[0231] end-user traffic data (free to the network)

[0232] end-user temperature data (free to the network)

[0233] other

[0234] Each individual content stream can also contain advertising (typical for a free service). Typical subscription services would not contain advertising.

[0235] The Spatial Temporal Content Manager (STCM) 114, receives all Communiqués from the Program Manager 113, and assigns the communiqués for a given period of time to given cells to form narrowcast regions in the time domain. Communiqué A, which is the data payload for 803 delivered

to a narrowcast region, is but one of many Communiqué -Narrowcast-Time pairings that occurs in the Spatial Temporal Communiqué Manager 114. In addition to Communiqué A:

[0236] Communiqué B is a diurnal narrowcast.

[0237] Communiqué C is a special event narrowcast.

[0238] The Spatial Temporal Communiqué Manager 114, through repetitive programming, ensures that all cells, whether stand-alone or grouped into a narrowcast region, have content available 24 hours per day 7 days per week.

[0239] The programming described herein is deterministic meaning the content contained within a Communiqué, where a Communiqué is transmitted and how long a communiqué is transmitted is pre-programmed by the network operator. Another embodiment concerns dynamic active feedback from end-users within a given narrowcast region to "inform" the Spatial Temporal Communiqué Manager 114, whether or not they are within the narrowcast region.

[0240] Summary

[0241] The communiqué system for combined cellular and wireline communication networks groups cells and/or cell sectors to cover a predetermined geographic area or demographic population or subscriber interest group to transmit information to subscribers who populate the target audience for the narrowcast transmissions. The grouping of cells to form the communiqué coverage area for the narrowcast transmissions can be hierarchical in nature and consist of combinations of in-building wireless coverage areas, standard terrestrial cells, non-terrestrial cells, wireline based communication networks, orchestrated in a hierarchical manner.

What is claimed:

1. A communiqué system for providing communiqué communication services to subscribers, who are equipped with a communiqué wired subscriber device, via a wireline-based communication network that provides a plurality of communication channels, each of which serves a plurality of communiqué wired subscriber devices, comprising:

means for selecting a plurality of channels in said wireline-based communication network to provide said communiqué communication service; and

means for routing communiqués, constituting said communiqué communication service, from a selected program source to selected ones of said plurality of wired communication channels for transmission to a plurality of communiqué wired subscriber devices served by said wireline-based communication network.

2. The communiqué system of claim 1 further comprising:

means, responsive to receipt of a communiqué identifier from a communiqué wired subscriber device, for interconnecting said communiqué wired subscriber device to a selected one of said plurality of wired communication channels to enable receipt of said communiqués conveyed to said communiqué wireless subscriber device by said selected one of said plurality of wired communication channels.

3. The communiqué system of claim 2 wherein said means for interconnecting comprises:

means for identifying each of said plurality of communiqué wired subscriber devices via a communiqué address assigned to said plurality of communiqué wired subscriber devices to enable the wireline-based communication network to recognize each of said plurality of communiqué wired subscriber devices without requiring a unique identity for each of said plurality of communiqué wired subscriber devices.

4. The communiqué system of claim 2 further comprising:

means for storing data representative of communiqué device identifiers, each of which uniquely identifies a one of said plurality of communiqué wireless subscriber devices.

5. The communiqué system of claim 4 further comprising:

means, responsive to receipt of a one of said communiqué device identifiers from a one of said plurality of communiqué wireless subscriber devices to request access to subscription-based communiqués, for comparing said received communiqué device identifier with said stored communiqué device identifiers; and

means, responsive to a match between said received communiqué device identifier and a one of said stored communiqué device identifiers that correspond to authorization for said requested subscription-based communiqués, for enabling said one of said plurality of communiqué wireless subscriber devices to access said subscription-based communiqués.

6. The communiqué system of claim 5 further comprising:

means for transmitting data received from said one of said plurality of communiqué wireless subscriber devices to other subscribers.

7. The communiqué system of claim 1 wherein said means for selecting comprises:

means for defining a set of said wired communication channels to provide a communiqué communication service to at least one of: a predetermined geographic area, a demographic population, and a subscriber interest group.

8. The communiqué system of claim 7 wherein said means for defining comprises:

means, responsive to occurrence of an event, for identifying a temporal and spatial extent of said communiqué communication service; and

means for translating said identified temporal and spatial extent into said set of said wired communication channels.

9. The communiqué system of claim 8 wherein said means for defining further comprises:

means for dynamically updating said temporal and spatial extent.

10. The communiqué system of claim 1 wherein said means for selecting comprises:

means for creating temporal and spatial extent of narrowcast in the content domain.

11. The communiqué system of claim 10 wherein said means for creating temporal and spatial extent comprises:

means for transmitting a program stream to said plurality of wired subscriber devices served by said selected at least one of said plurality of cell sites; and

control signal means for transmitting program stream parsing control signals to said plurality of wired subscriber devices served by said selected at least one of said plurality of cell sites to define at least one communiqué that is excerpted from said program stream.

12. The communiqué system of claim 1 for providing communiqué communication services to said subscribers, who are further equipped with a wireless subscriber device, via a cellular communication network that includes a plurality of cell sites, each of which provides a plurality of wireless communication channels, each of which serves a plurality of wireless communication devices in a cell that covers a predetermined volume of space around a cell site transmitting antenna, said communiqué system further comprising:

means for selecting at least one of said plurality of cell sites to provide a communiqué communication service; and

means for routing communiqués constituting said communiqué communication service from a selected program source to said selected at least one of said plurality of cell sites for transmission via a one of said plurality of wireless communication channels to a plurality of wireless subscriber devices served by said selected at least one of said plurality of cell sites.

13. The communiqué system of claim 12 further comprising:

means for enabling each of said plurality of wireless subscriber devices to receive said communiqués via said one of said plurality of wireless communication channels.

14. The communiqué system of claim 13 wherein said means for enabling comprises:

means for identifying each of said plurality of wireless subscriber devices via a communiqué address assigned to said plurality of wireless subscriber devices to enable the cell sites to recognize each of said plurality of wireless subscriber devices without requiring a unique identity for each of said plurality of wireless subscriber devices.

15. The communiqué system of claim 14 wherein said means for identifying comprises:

means for assigning a common MIN as said communiqué address assigned to said plurality of wireless subscriber devices to enable the cell sites to recognize each of said plurality of wireless subscriber devices without requiring a unique identity for each of said plurality of wireless subscriber devices.

16. The communiqué system of claim 14 wherein said means for enabling comprises:

means for registering at least one of said plurality of wireless subscriber devices to uniquely identify said at least one wireless subscriber device; and

means for authorizing said at least one wireless subscriber device to receive a subscriber selected communiqué.

17. A method of providing communiqué communication services to subscribers, who are equipped with a communiqué wired subscriber device, via a wireline-based communication network that provides a plurality of communication channels, each of which serves a plurality of communiqué wired subscriber devices, comprising the steps of:

selecting a plurality of channels in said wireline-based communication network to provide said communiqué communication service; and

routing communiqués, constituting said communiqué communication service, from a selected program source to selected ones of said plurality of wired communication channels for transmission to a plurality of communiqué wired subscriber devices served by said wireline-based communication network.

18. The method of providing communiqué communication services of claim 17 further comprising the step of:

interconnecting, in response to receipt of a communiqué identifier from a communiqué wired subscriber device, said communiqué wired subscriber device to a selected one of said plurality of wired communication channels to enable receipt of said communiqués conveyed to said communiqué wireless subscriber device by said selected one of said plurality of wired communication channels.

19. The method of providing communiqué communication services of claim 18 wherein said step of interconnecting comprises:

identifying each of said plurality of communiqué wired subscriber devices via a communiqué address assigned to said plurality of communiqué wired subscriber devices to enable the wireline-based communication network to recognize each of said plurality of communiqué wired subscriber devices without requiring a unique identity for each of said plurality of communiqué wired subscriber devices.

20. The method of providing communiqué communication services of claim 18 further comprising the step of:

storing data representative of communiqué device identifiers, each of which uniquely identifies a one of said plurality of communiqué wireless subscriber devices.

21. The method of providing communiqué communication services of claim 20 further comprising the steps of:

comparing, in response to receipt of a one of said communiqué device identifiers from a one of said plurality of communiqué wireless subscriber devices to request access to subscription-based communiqués, said received communiqué device identifier with said stored communiqué device identifiers; and

enabling, in response to a match between said received communiqué device identifier and a one of said stored communiqué device identifiers that correspond to authorization for said requested subscription-based communiqués, said one of said plurality of communiqué wireless subscriber devices to access said subscription-based communiqués.

22. The method of providing communiqué communication services of claim 21 further comprising the step of:

transmitting data received from said one of said plurality of communiqué wireless subscriber devices to other subscribers.

23. The method of providing communiqué communication services of claim 17 wherein said step of selecting comprises:

defining a set of said wired communication channels to provide a communiqué communication service to at

least one of: a predetermined geographic area, a demographic population, and a subscriber interest group.

24. The method of providing communiqué communication services of claim 23 wherein said step of defining comprises:

identifying, in response to occurrence of an event, a temporal and spatial extent of said communiqué communication service; and

translating said identified temporal and spatial extent into said set of said wired communication channels.

25. The method of providing communiqué communication services of claim 24 wherein said step of defining further comprises:

dynamically updating said temporal and spatial extent.

26. The method of providing communiqué communication services of claim 17 wherein said step of selecting comprises:

creating temporal and spatial extent of narrowcast in the content domain.

27. The method of providing communiqué communication services of claim 26 wherein said step of creating temporal and spatial extent comprises:

transmitting a program stream to said plurality of wired subscriber devices served by said selected at least one of said plurality of cell sites; and

transmitting program stream parsing control signals to said plurality of wired subscriber devices served by said selected at least one of said plurality of cell sites to define at least one communiqué that is excerpted from said program stream.

28. The method of providing communiqué communication services of claim 17 for providing communiqué communication services to said subscribers, who are further equipped with a wireless subscriber device, via a cellular communication network that includes a plurality of cell sites, each of which provides a plurality of wireless communication channels, each of which serves a plurality of wireless communication devices in a cell that covers a predetermined volume of space around a cell site transmitting antenna, said method further comprising the steps of:

selecting at least one of said plurality of cell sites to provide a communiqué communication service; and

routing communiqués constituting said communiqué communication service from a selected program source to said selected at least one of said plurality of cell sites for transmission via a one of said plurality of wireless communication channels to a plurality of wireless subscriber devices served by said selected at least one of said plurality of cell sites.

29. The method of providing communiqué communication services of claim 28 further comprising the step of:

enabling each of said plurality of wireless subscriber devices to receive said communiqués via said one of said plurality of wireless communication channels.

30. The method of providing communiqué communication services of claim 29 wherein said step of enabling comprises:

identifying each of said plurality of wireless subscriber devices via a communiqué address assigned to said

plurality of wireless subscriber devices to enable the cell sites to recognize each of said plurality of wireless subscriber devices without requiring a unique identity for each of said plurality of wireless subscriber devices.

31. The method of providing communiqué communication services of claim 30 wherein said step of identifying comprises:

assigning a common MIN as said communiqué address assigned to said plurality of wireless subscriber devices to enable the cell sites to recognize each of said plurality of wireless subscriber devices without requiring a unique identity for each of said plurality of wireless subscriber devices.

32. The method of providing communiqué communication services of claim 30 wherein said step of enabling comprises:

registering at least one of said plurality of wireless subscriber devices to uniquely identify said at least one wireless subscriber device; and

authorizing said at least one wireless subscriber device to receive a subscriber selected communiqué.

33. A communiqué system for providing communiqué communication services to subscribers, who are equipped with a communiqué wired subscriber device, via a wireline-based communication network that provides a plurality of communication channels, each of which serves a plurality of communiqué wired subscriber devices, comprising:

temporal spatial communiqué manager means for selecting a plurality of channels in said wireline-based communication network to provide said communiqué communication service; and

program manager means for routing communiqués, constituting said communiqué communication service, from a selected program source to selected ones of said plurality of wired communication channels for transmission to a plurality of communiqué wired subscriber devices served by said wireline-based communication network.

34. The communiqué system of claim 33 further comprising:

communiqué location register means, responsive to receipt of a communiqué identifier from a communiqué wired subscriber device, for interconnecting said communiqué wired subscriber device to a selected one of said plurality of wired communication channels to enable receipt of said communiqués conveyed to said communiqué wireless subscriber device by said selected one of said plurality of wired communication channels.

35. The communiqué system of claim 34 wherein said communiqué location register means comprises:

means for identifying each of said plurality of communiqué wired subscriber devices via a communiqué address assigned to said plurality of communiqué wired subscriber devices to enable the wireline-based communication network to recognize each of said plurality of communiqué wired subscriber devices without requiring a unique identity for each of said plurality of communiqué wired subscriber devices.

36. The communiqué system of claim 34 wherein said communiqué location register means comprises:

memory means for storing data representative of communiqué device identifiers, each of which uniquely identifies a one of said plurality of communiqué wireless subscriber devices.

37. The communiqué system of claim 36 further comprising:

means, responsive to receipt of a one of said communiqué device identifiers from a one of said plurality of communiqué wireless subscriber devices to request access to subscription-based communiqués, for comparing said received communiqué device identifier with said stored communiqué device identifiers; and

means, responsive to a match between said received communiqué device identifier and a one of said stored communiqué device identifiers that correspond to authorization for said requested subscription-based communiqués, for enabling said one of said plurality of communiqué wireless subscriber devices to access said subscription-based communiqués.

38. The communiqué wireless subscriber device of claim 37 further comprising:

transmitter means for transmitting data received from said one of said plurality of communiqué wireless subscriber devices to other subscribers.

39. The communiqué system of claim 33 wherein said temporal spatial communiqué manager means comprises:

program database means for defining a set of said wired communication channels to provide a communiqué communication service to at least one of: a predetermined geographic area, a demographic population, and a subscriber interest group.

40. The communiqué system of claim 39 wherein said program database means comprises:

coverage area means, responsive to occurrence of an event, for identifying a temporal and spatial extent of said communiqué communication service; and

program parsing means for translating said identified temporal and spatial extent into said set of said wired communication channels.

41. The communiqué system of claim 40 wherein said program database means further comprises:

means for dynamically updating said temporal and spatial extent.

42. The communiqué system of claim 33 wherein said temporal spatial communiqué manager means comprises:

program database means for creating temporal and spatial extent of narrowcast in the content domain.

43. The communiqué system of claim 42 wherein said program database means comprises:

program transmitter means for transmitting a program stream to said plurality of wired subscriber devices served by said selected at least one of said plurality of cell sites; and

control signal means for transmitting program stream parsing control signals to said plurality of wired subscriber devices served by said selected at least one of

said plurality of cell sites to define at least one communiqué that is excerpted from said program stream.

44. The communiqué system of claim 33 for providing communiqué communication services to said subscribers, who are further equipped with a wireless subscriber device, via a cellular communication network that includes a plurality of cell sites, each of which provides a plurality of wireless communication channels, each of which serves a plurality of wireless communication devices in a cell that covers a predetermined volume of space around a cell site transmitting antenna, said communiqué system further comprising:

temporal spatial communiqué manager means for selecting at least one of said plurality of cell sites to provide a communiqué communication service; and

program manager means for routing communiqués constituting said communiqué communication service from a selected program source to said selected at least one of said plurality of cell sites for transmission via a one of said plurality of wireless communication channels to a plurality of wireless subscriber devices served by said selected at least one of said plurality of cell sites.

45. The communiqué system of claim 44 further comprising:

communiqué location register means for enabling each of said plurality of wireless subscriber devices to receive said communiqués via said one of said plurality of wireless communication channels.

46. The communiqué system of claim 45 wherein said communiqué location register means comprises:

means for identifying each of said plurality of wireless subscriber devices via a communiqué address assigned to said plurality of wireless subscriber devices to enable the cell sites to recognize each of said plurality of wireless subscriber devices without requiring a unique identity for each of said plurality of wireless subscriber devices.

47. The communiqué system of claim 46 wherein said means for identifying comprises:

spoofing means for assigning a common MIN as said communiqué address assigned to said plurality of wireless subscriber devices to enable the cell sites to recognize each of said plurality of wireless subscriber devices without requiring a unique identity for each of said plurality of wireless subscriber devices.

48. The communiqué system of claim 46 wherein said communiqué location register means comprises:

wireless subscriber device registering means for registering at least one of said plurality of wireless subscriber devices to uniquely identify said at least one wireless subscriber device; and

wireless subscriber device authorization means for authorizing said at least one wireless subscriber device to receive a subscriber selected communiqué.

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